



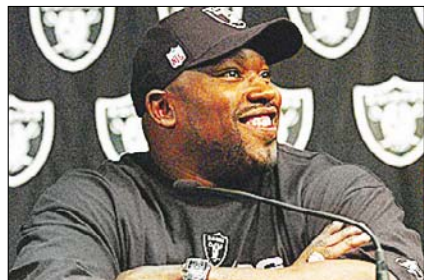
Wednesday

MARCH 24, 2004

Medic Alert: Report says Medicare to go bust by 2019 | **4**

Hit List: Israel threatens to kill all leaders of Hamas | **5**

Pumped Up: Drivers face highest gasoline prices ever | **8**



JUMPING SHIP: Warren Sapp is just one of several superstars to depart the new-look Tampa Bay Buccaneers. **Sports** | Page 10

ENTERTAINMENT

Camera Men: The *Coen brothers* talk about remakes and who's really weird in Hollywood. Also, *the Vines*; *ukeleles*; attack of the *literary lads*. >> **13-16**



Weather > Partly Sunny



58 | 42

FULL FORECAST ON PAGE 22



DEFENSIVE SECRETARY: In a vigorous defense of the Bush administration's pre-Sept. 11 handling of terrorist threats, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told the federal panel reviewing the Sept. 11 attacks on Tuesday that killing al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden would not have foiled the terrorist plot.

Pointing Fingers Over 9/11

Clinton, Bush officials defend handling of al Qaeda threat

WASHINGTON | Clinton and Bush administration officials engaged in fruitless diplomatic efforts instead of military action to try to get Osama bin Laden out of Afghanistan before the Sept. 11 attacks, a federal panel said Tuesday.

Top officials countered that the terror operation would have occurred even if the United States had been able to kill the al Qaeda leader.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and Secretary of State Colin Powell, in a strong defense of pre-Sept. 11 actions that have become a major election campaign

issue, told the federal commission reviewing the attacks that the plot was well under way when the Bush administration took office in January 2001.

"Killing bin Laden would not have removed al Qaeda's sanctuary in Afghanistan," Rumsfeld said. "Moreover, the sleeper cells that flew the aircraft into the World Trade towers and the Pentagon were already in the United States months before the attack."

Powell said that even if U.S. forces had invaded Afghanistan, killed bin Laden and

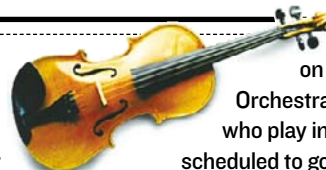
neutralized al Qaeda, "I have no reason to believe that would have caused them to abort their plans."

The testimony by Rumsfeld and Powell came against the backdrop of counterterrorism adviser Richard Clarke's claim that top Bush administration officials had ignored bin Laden and the threat of the al Qaeda terror network while focusing on Iraq's Saddam Hussein.

Powell did not mention Clarke by name, but said, "President Bush and his entire national security team understood that terrorism had to be among our highest priorities and it was." HOPE YEN (AP)

♦ **Bush hits back:** President says he would have acted quickly if he'd known of Sept. 11 threat | Page 3

DISCHORD | Paid By the Note? Violinists at a German orchestra are suing for a pay raise on the grounds that they play many more notes per concert than their musical colleagues — litigation that the orchestra's director



on Tuesday called "absurd." The 16 violinists at the Beethoven Orchestra in Bonn argue that they work more than their colleagues who play instruments like the flute, oboe and trombone. The case is scheduled to go before a labor judge in May. (AP) **EyeOpeners** | Page 2

EyeOpeners

ART Faces in The Fruit

For anyone who's ever wanted their breakfast to gaze back at them, Brazilian artist Tonico Lemos Auad has just the thing. Auad, whose drawings on bananas are going on display this week at London's Institute of Contemporary Arts, is one of 10 contenders vying for the annual Beck's Futures prize for avant-garde artists. The 10 semi-finalists will share in a \$74,104 prize, London's The Guardian newspaper reported. But the winner, to be announced in April, will pick up some \$37,000 more. The show will run until May 16.

(EXPRESS)

PETER MACDIARMID/REUTERS

FOOD This Has Never, Ever Happened Before

A Rio Rancho, N.M., fast food restaurant worker is facing charges after he was accused of spitting into a police officer's hamburger. Marcus Calderon, 19, of Rio Rancho, was arrested and charged Saturday with assaulting a

police officer and altering food, both misdemeanors. Police spokesman John Francis said the officer noticed something was wrong after taking two or three bites of his hamburger. Francis said Calderon told police he was sick and may have accidentally coughed or spit on the burger. Calderon was fired from the restaurant. (AP)

YOUTH Special Herbs, Spices

A 5-year-old boy took a bag of marijuana with him to Miami's Gratigny Elementary School on Monday and was sprinkling it over a friend's lasagna like oregano when a monitor inter-

vened, police said. The lasagna was confiscated before the other boy had a chance to eat it. Police said it was unclear whether the kindergartner even knew what he was carrying. Police and child welfare authorities were investigating the boy's family. (AP)

SCANDALOUS! Soup Spat

A hospital has had to cancel operations after a surgeon was suspended in a dispute over a bowl of soup in the staff cafeteria, officials said Tuesday. Terence Hope, 57, a leading expert in vascular neurosurgery, was suspended March 18 after "allegations about his personal conduct," according to Queen's Medical Center in the central England city of Nottingham. The Daily Mail tabloid reported Monday that Hope, who earns \$144,000 a year, had been accused of taking an extra serving of soup without paying. He reportedly said he had just been getting some more croutons. (AP)

FASHION Coming Down On the Mountain State

West Virginia Gov. Bob Wise sent a letter to Abercrombie & Fitch on Monday demanding that the clothing retailer stop selling a T-shirt that spoofs the state with the slogan, "It's All Relative in West Virginia."

Wise said the T-shirt depicts "an unfounded, negative stereotype of West Virginia." Abercrombie & Fitch spokesman Tom Lennox declined to say whether the company would comply with the governor's request. He said the T-shirt, which features the slogan on an outline of the state, has been selling well at \$22.50 each. (AP)



M.K. MCFARLAND/GAZETTE/AP



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In Brief

MCALESTER, OKLA.

Evidence From Nichols's Home Shown at Bombing Trial

An FBI lawyer testified Tuesday that barrels and fuses like those used to build the bomb that destroyed the Oklahoma City federal building were found at Terry Nichols' home just days after the deadly blast. Nichols is on trial for 161 state counts of first-degree murder for the bombing at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, which killed 168 people. (AP)

WASHINGTON

Gay Lawmaker Speaks Out Against Marriage Measure

Speaking in highly personal terms, a gay member of Congress on Tuesday challenged supporters of a U.S. constitutional ban on same-sex marriages, asking "who are we hurting" when homosexuals want to express the same emotional commitment as other Americans. Democratic Rep. Barney Frank's appeal was unusual in Congress, where lawmakers clash on matters of policy, but seldom refer to their personal lives in an attempt to influence legislation. (AP)

WINFIELD, W.VA.

Two Charged in Theft of \$100K From Lottery Winner

Two men were charged Tuesday with stealing \$100,000 from the winner of the biggest undivided lottery jackpot in U.S. history. Brian Christopher Hillabold and David Michael Fewell, both 20, were jailed on charges of breaking into Jack Whittaker's sport utility vehicle Jan. 17. Whittaker won a Powerball prize of nearly \$315 million in 2002. (AP)

Panel: U.S. Lacked Bin Laden Intel

Sketchy details precluded attack on al Qaeda chief

WASHINGTON | The day before the Sept. 11 attacks, U.S. officials settled on a three-year strategy to overthrow the Taliban Afghan government in case a final diplomatic push failed, the commission investigating the strikes in New York and Virginia said Tuesday.

The commission report said U.S. officials, in both the Clinton and Bush administrations, feared a failed attempt on bin Laden's life could kill innocents and would only boost bin Laden's prestige. And the American public and Congress would have opposed any large-scale military operations before the attacks, the report said.

In the end, it said, pursuing diplomacy over military action

allowed bin Laden and other al Qaeda leaders to elude capture.

The commission's staff has spent months interviewing Clinton and Bush administration officials and poring over documents. Its preliminary findings, included in two statements issued Monday, will be considered by the 10-member panel, which plans to issue a final report this summer.

The staff reports found both administrations lacked the detailed intelligence needed to strike directly at bin Laden, so they pressured Afghanistan's Taliban to exile the al Qaeda chief. HOPE YEN (AP)

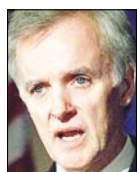
Before 9/11: More from Bush and Clinton administration officials | Today's Washington Post, A Section.



Secretary of State Colin Powell, with deputy Richard Armitage, left, said Tuesday that a strike in Afghanistan would likely have done little to deter the 9/11 hijackers.

DECONSTRUCTING A TRAGEDY

Current and former officials from the Clinton and Bush administrations — including secretaries of state and defense — testified before the commission investigating the Sept. 11 attacks on Tuesday. Among their statements:



→ **Former Sen. Bob Kerrey, D-Neb., 9/11 Commission:**

I keep hearing the excuse that we didn't have actionable intelligence. Well, what the hell does that say to al Qaeda? Basically, they knew ... that there was going to be limited, if any, use of the military...."

→ **Secretary of State Colin Powell:**

"Anything we might have done against al Qaeda during this period [before the attacks], against Osama

bin Laden, may or may not have any influence on these people who ... were getting ready to commit the crimes we saw on 9/11."

→ **Former Defense Secretary William Cohen:**

"Even now after Sept. 11, it is far from clear that our society truly appreciates the gravity of the threat we face or is yet willing to do what is necessary to counter it. ... The enemy is not only coming, he has been here."



Bush Defends Pre-9/11 Record on Terrorism

WASHINGTON | President Bush said Tuesday he would have acted more quickly against al Qaeda if he had information before Sept. 11, 2001, that a terror attack against New York City was imminent.

"We have been chasing down al Qaeda, ever since those attacks," Bush said.

In his first direct response to criticism raised in a new book by his former counterterrorism adviser, Richard Clarke, Bush denied that he ignored Osama bin Laden and

the threat of the al Qaeda terror network before the attacks while focusing his attention on Iraq's Saddam Hussein.

"The facts are these, George Tenet briefed me on a regular basis about the terrorist threat to the United States of America, and had my administration had any information that terrorists were going to attack New York City on Sept. 11, we would have acted," Bush said. Tenet is the CIA director.

TOM RAUM (AP)

Allergies?

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Nation

Medicare's Final Countdown

Trustees say program's funding could run out in less than 20 years

WASHINGTON | Medicare will have to begin dipping into its trust fund this year to keep up with expenditures and will go broke by 2019 without changes in a program that is swelling because of rising health costs, trustees reported Tuesday.

Social Security's finances showed little change, and its projected insolvency date remained 2042.

The deteriorating financial picture for the health care program for older and disabled Americans is a result, in part, of the new Medicare prescription drug law that will swell costs by more than \$500 billion over

10 years, according to the annual report by government trustees.

Provisions of the measure that President Bush signed into law in December "raise serious doubt about the sustainability of Medicare under current financing arrangements," the trustees said.

The 2019 go-broke date for the Medicare trust fund, which is devoted primarily to paying beneficiaries' hospital bills, is seven years sooner than what the trustees projected last year.

The trustees' report is the first official estimates of the long-term costs of the new Medicare law in December. As they did last year, the trustees said that projected lower tax receipts devoted to the program and higher expenditures

for inpatient hospital care also contributed to the growing financial problem.

White House spokesman Trent Duffy said the rising cost of health care — and not the prescription drug program — is causing Medicare costs to swell. "It's health care costs — over 70 percent," he said. "Not prescription drugs."

Government officials have been predicting for years that the retirement insurance and health care funds for the elderly — both financed through payroll taxes — will be pushed toward insolvency as more post-World War II baby boomers reach 65.

The trustees' report is based on the estimates by Medicare actuary Richard Foster. MARK SHERMAN (AP)

REFINERY FIRE | PLENTY OF FUEL



QUICK WORK: Flames spew two stories high from a Sunoco refinery in Tulsa, Okla., on Tuesday. Firefighters were able to control the fire, which pumped smoke into downtown Tulsa, within an hour. No injuries were reported in the blaze.

Blacks Still Feel Racial Disparities

NEW YORK | Black Americans are less likely than white Americans to own homes, don't earn as much as whites, don't live as long and don't do as well in school, according to a report by the National Urban League.

The report, released on Wednesday, is a collection of survey data and essays by experts in race, social justice, health, psychology and civil rights.

The most conspicuous differences it found were in the areas of home ownership and economic parity, with black earning power about 73 percent that of whites.

The Urban League report found that blacks are denied mortgages and home improvement loans at twice the rate of whites.

About 68 percent of Americans own their homes, but the Census

Bureau has reported that ownership among blacks and Hispanics is about 48 percent. Nearly 54 percent of Asian-Americans own their homes, compared with 75 percent of whites.

The report also found that, 50 years after the Supreme Court ruled segregated public schools unconstitutional, black students' performance still trails that of their white counterparts. CHAKA FERGUSON (AP)

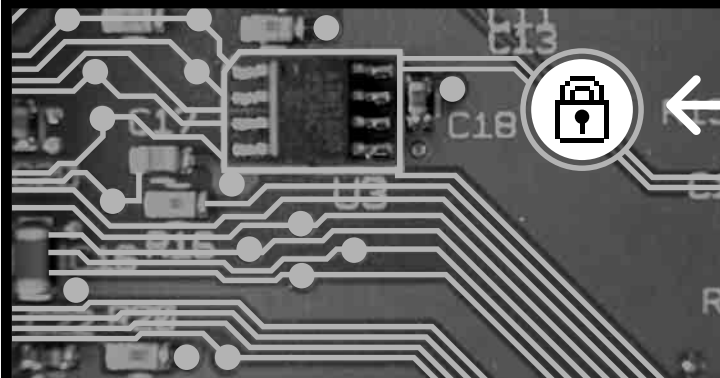


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In Brief

IRAQ

U.S. Frees Nearly 300 From Notorious Abu Ghraib Prison

The U.S. military released 272 security detainees Tuesday from Abu Ghraib prison, once Saddam Hussein's most notorious lockup. Many smiled or flashed victory signs as they left, while others shouted angry complaints. "I just came out of hell," screamed one. Tuesday's event followed the release of 168 prisoners on Sunday and the disclosure that six U.S. soldiers face charges of abusing prisoners at Abu Ghraib. (AP)

SWEDEN

Assassin Sentenced to Life

A 25-year-old man who said voices in his head told him to stab Foreign Minister Anna Lindh was convicted of her murder and sentenced to life in prison Tuesday. The Stockholm district court said Mijailo Mijailovic acted with "reckless and ruthless brutality" when he knifed Lindh as she shopped at a department store Sept. 10. Lindh, 46, was touted as a future prime minister. (AP)

HAITI

Aristide Reportedly Declines Offer of Asylum From Nigeria

Ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide will not take Nigeria up on its offer of temporary asylum, an associate said Tuesday. Randall Robinson, an African-American activist, said he had spoken with Aristide, who is in Jamaica, by telephone after Nigeria's offer of asylum on Monday. "He has not asked and does not want to go to Nigeria," said Robinson. Aristide left Haiti Feb. 29 as rebels threatened to attack Port-au-Prince. (AP)

ARCTIC

Female Adventurer Aiming For North Pole Feared Lost

Organizers fear that a lone female French-Finnish adventurer may be forever lost in the Arctic after several rescue attempts failed to find her and her supplies were expected to run out. Dominick Arduin was last heard from on March 5 when she called by satellite phone from Arctic Russia at the start of her journey, expedition spokesman Reijo Hietanen said Tuesday. "It looks very grim," he said. Arduin, 43, hoped to be the first woman to reach the North Pole alone and unaided. (AP)



BATTENING DOWN: Israeli soldiers walk next to a coffeeshop on their way to be deployed in downtown Jerusalem Tuesday.

Hamas Leaders On Notice

Israel says Palestinian militants in crosshairs

GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP | Israel threatened to kill the entire leadership of the Islamic militant group Hamas after assassinating its founder and hinted Tuesday that Yasser Arafat could wind up on the hit list in the future.

The accelerated strikes at Hamas are part of an attempt to score a decisive victory ahead of an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. Israel does not want to be seen as being driven out by militants.

The tough talk came on the same

day Hamas hard-liner Abdel Aziz Rantisi was elected as the new leader of the Islamic militant group in Gaza. The 54-year-old pediatrician replaces Sheik Ahmed Yassin, who was killed in an Israeli airstrike early Monday.

"My people, we must unify under the umbrella of resistance," Rantisi said in his acceptance speech in front of tens of thousands of

cheering Hamas supporters. Rantisi has pushed for accelerating attacks on Israel and rules out all compromise. His aggressive style is particularly popular with younger activists.

The Israeli army chief, Lt. Gen. Moshe Yaalon, on Tuesday hinted that Arafat might eventually be targeted as well. The killing of Yassin should be seen as a signal "to all those who choose to harm us that this will be their end," Yaalon said.

IBRAHIM BARZAK (AP)

Adjusting to fear: The day after Yassin's assassination, Israelis awoke to the kind of pervasive fear that hasn't been felt there in months | Today's Post: Section A

MARKED MEN?

The top leaders of Hamas after the assassination of the group's founder, Sheik Ahmed Yassin:

ABDEL AZIZ RANTISI

The 54-year-old pediatrician was chosen Tuesday as the group's top leader in the Gaza Strip.

MAHMOUD ZAHAR

A hard-liner, Zahar is a Hamas spokesman and was Sheikh Yassin's personal physician.

ISMAIL HANIEH

A top aide to Yassin and member of Hamas's political bureau; considered more pragmatic.

KHALED MASHAAL

Oversees Hamas's political bureau from Syria; survived Israeli assassination attempt.

MOUSSA ABU MARZOOK

An engineer who lived in the U.S. for 15 years, he is Mashaal's deputy in the political bureau.



WHO KNEW? Protesters in the Philippines defaced a huge billboard ad for booze Tuesday, saying its message — "Have you ever tried a 15-year-old?" — encourages pedophilia. The spat over the ad for Napoleon, a 15-year-old local brandy, has been simmering since the manufacturer refused to pull the ad after complaints from women's groups and the Roman Catholic Church. (AP)

Death Toll From Madrid Bombings Revised Downward

MADRID | The death toll in the Madrid terrorist attacks fell from 202 to 190 on Tuesday when Spanish authorities announced errors in identifying mutilated bodies. They confirmed there was no evidence of a suicide bomber.

Body parts contained in 13 bags had originally been thought to be

from unidentified dead, but DNA tests showed the remains belonged to people already included in the death toll or to survivors who lost limbs in the blasts on March 11, said Interior Ministry spokesman Richard Ibanez.

The devastating attacks in Madrid were Spain's worst terrorist attack. The former death toll of 202 had equaled the number of deaths in the October 2002 terrorist attack in Bali, Indonesia. That bombing had the highest death toll since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. (AP)

2 Policemen, 9 Recruits Gunned Down in Iraq

BAGHDAD, IRAQ | Gunmen opened fire on a van filled with police recruits south of Baghdad on Tuesday, killing nine, and assailants shot and killed two police officers — twin brothers — north of the capital.

The slayings were the latest to target police and other Iraqis who work with the U.S.-led occupation.

The attack in the south took place when a car pulled in front of the minibus full of recruits and assailants sprayed it with small arms fire, police in Hillah said.

A U.S. military official confirmed that nine people died and said two were wounded. Iraqi police said one wounded trainee survived.

In the northern city of Kirkuk, gunmen in a car killed two policemen and wounded two others, police Capt. Abdul-Salam Zangana said. He identified the slain victims as twin brothers Ahmed and Mohammed Kadhim, killed as they were parking their car in a main square and as worshippers left a nearby mosque.

CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA (AP)



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World

China Nixes Talks On Human Rights

**Angry over possible
 censure at the U.N., it
 calls off U.S. dialogue**

BEIJING | China angrily suspended dialogue on human rights with the United States on Tuesday, one day after Washington said it would seek to criticize the mainland's rights record at the U.N. Human Rights Conference under way in Geneva.

Such a resolution has been introduced almost every year since Beijing's 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square, when hundreds, if not thousands, died.

The United States decided not

to seek a resolution against China last year because it said Beijing had made significant progress on human rights. But in its annual report on human rights released in February, the State Department criticized China for "backsliding," citing the arrests of democracy activists and others who defied authorities.

China rejects criticism of its human rights record, but has carried on dialogues on the issue with the United States since the mid-1990s.

"The United States abruptly betrayed its commitment and turned a blind eye to the overall improvements China has made," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan. AUDRA ANG (AP)



An investor studies stock prices Tuesday at a trading house in Taipei. Taiwan's stock market plunged nearly 7 percent Monday amid turmoil over the election.

Taiwan's Leader Willing To Accept Vote Recount

TAIPEI, TAIWAN | Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian tried to defuse a political crisis Tuesday, calling for a recount in an election he narrowly won just one day after a bizarre shooting slightly wounded him and his vice president.

Thousands of protesters continued to camp out in front of the Presidential Office demanding that the recount begin immediately. The crowd's shouts could be heard as Chen gave his first televised address to the nation since his re-election Saturday. "I will accept it 100 percent," he said of the recount.

Chen's challenger, Lien Chan, has argued that the election was marred by irregularities, though Lien has provided little evidence to prove this. Lien has also suggested that the shooting Friday may have been staged to gain sympathy votes.

The bullet grazed Chen's abdomen, while Vice President Annette Lu was hit in the knee as they were cruising in an open-top Jeep on Friday. No suspects have been arrested, but officials have released hospital photos, DNA tests and ballistics reports as evidence it happened. WILLIAM FOREMAN (AP)

Local

IRAQ WAR | LOCAL SOLDIER'S FAREWELL



LAI D TO REST: An Army honor guard carries the casket of Spc. Jason Christopher Ford of Bowie, Md., during funeral services at Arlington National Cemetery on Tuesday. Ford was killed March 13 when a roadside bomb exploded next to his vehicle while he was on patrol in Tikrit, Iraq.

Malvo in Isolation After Prison Move

RICHMOND, VA. | Convicted sniper Lee Boyd Malvo is being held in segregation in Virginia's highest security penitentiary, a Department of Corrections spokesman said Tuesday.

Prison officials on Thursday moved Malvo to Red Onion State Prison in remote Wise County

after he received the state's highest-level security classification at the Mecklenburg Correctional Facility in Boydton, the spokesman, Larry Traylor, said.

At Red Onion, Malvo is alone in a single cell among about 740 inmates. (AP)

The Lotteries

March 23

DISTRICT

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	1-3-5 (white)
Evening Lucky Numbers	5-6-5 (white)
Mid-day DC 4	9-9-9-0
Evening DC 4	4-5-0-3
Quick Cash	11-15-10-30-14-4
Hot Five	29-20-3-7-10

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3	3-9-8
Evening Pick 3	1-3-5
Mid-day Pick 4	5-3-9-5
Evening Pick 4	5-4-5-8
Match 5	1-10-14-16-38 Bonus: 17

VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3 (Tues.)	0-8-9
Evening Pick 3 (Mon.)	6-1-5
Mid-day Pick 4 (Tues.)	7-3-1-7
Evening Pick 4 (Mon.)	0-0-0-6
Mid-day Cash 5 (Tues.)	1-14-15-23-24
Evening Cash 5 (Mon.)	9-12-14-21-24

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.

BY THE NUMBERS: Hunters killed 7 percent fewer deer in Maryland during the 2003-04 season than they did the previous year, the Department of Natural Resources said Tuesday. (AP)

Disinfectant for Water To Change Temporarily

WASHINGTON | Officials in charge of the Washington Aqueduct said Tuesday they will temporarily change the way the water is disinfected, but insisted it has nothing to do with ongoing concerns about lead contamination.

"This is a good maintenance system to clean the system, that's all this is about," said Tom Jacobus, general manager of the Washington Aqueduct. It provides drinking water to the District, Arlington County, Va., and Falls Church, Va.

In 2001, the corps changed from chlorine to chloramine — a com-

Md. Slots Debate Heats Up

ANNAPOLIS, MD. | Saying expanded gambling is not a Republican or a Democratic issue, longtime GOP congressman Wayne Gilchrest told House lawmakers on Tuesday that he opposes the legalization of slot machines championed by Republican Gov. Robert Ehrlich.

Gilchrest has long disapproved of gambling and his comments Tuesday pit him squarely against Ehrlich's campaign to establish slots as a way to raise money for education and horse racing.

Flanked by Attorney General J. Joseph Curran and Montgomery County Executive Douglas Duncan, both Democrats, Gilchrest urged delegates not to place the "heavy burden" of legalized slot machines on Marylanders.

Gilchrest, a seven-term Congressman from the Eastern Shore, said he solidified his position after researching gambling's effects on Indian casinos. Unemployment remained high after the casinos were established, and the FBI called the areas natural targets for organized crime, Gilchrest said.

Ehrlich's proposal was approved by the Senate but hasn't yet been considered in the House. (AP)

bination of ammonia and chlorine — to disinfect water treated at its two plants. D.C. Mayor Anthony A. Williams is among the officials who suspect the change may have enhanced corrosion in water pipes, allowing increased amounts of lead to leach from the system.

Also, the D.C. Department of Health said a six-year-old child was hospitalized Tuesday with elevated levels of lead in the blood. It appeared water was not the likely culprit. Health officials said they found large amounts of lead dust and peeling paint in the child's home. DERRILL HOLLY (AP)

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Money

Gas Prices Soar

At an average of \$1.74 per gallon, unleaded reaches a record high

WASHINGTON | The retail price of gasoline hit an all-time high Tuesday — nearly \$1.74 per gallon nationwide — reflecting strong demand, tight supplies and the high cost of oil, AAA reported.

AAA, formerly the American Automobile Association, reported that motorists are now paying \$1.738 per gallon for self-serve regular unleaded gasoline, one-tenth of a penny higher than the previous record set Aug. 30 of last year. Premium unleaded costs more than \$2 a gallon in many parts of the country.

“Unstable gasoline prices make budgeting for fuel costs extremely

difficult for families and businesses,” AAA said in a statement.

The Orlando, Fla.-based travel agency gets its data from Oil Price Information Service of Lakewood, N.J., which collects retail price information from 60,000 locations daily.

Gasoline prices traditionally rise between March and May as refiners temporarily shut down their plants in preparation for the peak summer driving season, when special clean-burning blends of fuel are required. These shutdowns shrink supplies.

This year, the effect on price has been magnified because commercial inventories of gasoline are already low. For the week ended March 12, U.S. gasoline inventories stood at 199.6 million barrels, down from 202.1 million barrels a year ago.

BRAD FOSS (AP)

Gas Prices Reach All-Time High

The national average price of self-serve regular unleaded gasoline reached an all-time high on Tuesday, reflecting strong demand, tight supplies and the high cost of oil.

National daily average price of regular unleaded gasoline



Microsoft Fires Back at EU Over Proposed Fine

Company's lawyer criticizes method for calculating penalty

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM | In a preview of its promised appeal, Microsoft Corp. accused the European Union on Tuesday of overreaching by including its U.S. business in calculating a record fine of about \$615 million for alleged antitrust abuses.

Microsoft's chief European lawyer, Horacio Gutierrez, argued that the EU's reported fine appeared to be twice what it should have been.

“We believe it's unprecedented and inappropriate for the Commission to impose a fine on a company's U.S. operations when those operations are already regulated by the U.S. government,” Gutierrez said. “The conduct at issue has been permitted by both the U.S. Department

of Justice and a U.S. court.”

Commission spokeswoman Amelia Torres declined to comment, saying EU Competition Commissioner Mario Monti would address questions Wednesday at a news conference after the Commission adopts the ruling. (AP)

THE MOST OF THE MOST
A fine of 500 million euros (\$615 million) would be the most the EU has ever levied. The others:

HOFFMAN-LA ROCHE (2001)
Violation: Vitamins cartel
Fine: 462 million euros

BASF (2001)
Violation: Vitamins cartel
Fine: 296 million euros

LAFARGE (2002)
Violation: Plasterboard cartel
Fine: 250 million euros

College Music-Swappers Targeted

LOS ANGELES | The recording industry sued 532 people Tuesday, including scores of individuals using computer networks at 21 universities, claiming they were illegally sharing

music files over the Internet.

This latest wave of copyright lawsuits brought by the Recording Industry Association of America on behalf of recording companies

marks the first time the trade group has targeted computer users swapping files on university networks.

The RIAA filed the “John Doe” complaints against 89 people at universities in states including New York, Virginia and Maryland. (AP)

WHO KNEW? The cable television industry said Tuesday it will provide free equipment to allow subscribers to block unwanted channels, a reaction to efforts on Capitol Hill to curb indecent programming. (AP)

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Money

Market Action

New York Stock Exchange

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
PnnEMA	13.80	+1.30	+10.4
PennEM	15.40	+1.40	+10.0
WinDix	8.08	+73	+9.9
PennTrty	2.07	+17	+8.9
Trump	2.63	+20	+8.2

Losers

Oneida	2.74	-.56	-17.0
CinciBell	4.17	-.83	-16.6
Omnova	4.77	-.51	-9.7
SCPIE	8.08	-.74	-8.4
NovaStar s	62.06	-5.43	-8.0

NASDAQ Stock Market

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
Conolog	4.48	+2.29	+104.6
palmOne	17.99	+4.15	+30.0
HaupgDig	6.76	+1.36	+25.2
Benthos	6.51	+1.26	+24.0
VCamps	3.00	+.53	+21.5

Losers

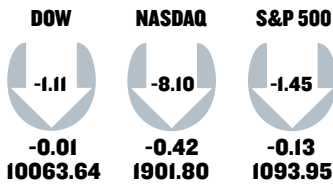
AstroM	11.70	-2.30	-16.4
DGSE	2.95	-.54	-15.5
I-Flow	13.09	-2.33	-15.1
VislDat rs	2.30	-.33	-12.5
Accessity rs	2.22	-.29	-11.6

Rates

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK
Prime Rate	4.00	4.00
Fed Funds close	1.00	1.00
3-month	0.93	0.95
2-year	1.47	1.48
10-year	3.70	3.68
30-year	4.65	4.64

Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)

	TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY	YEAR AGO
British Pound	.5410	.5415	.6396
Canadian Dollar	1.3320	1.3314	1.4937
European Euro	.8114	.8106	.9493
Japanese Yen	106.75	106.76	121.51
Mexican Peso	10.9670	10.9770	10.7175
Taiwanese Dollar	33.29	33.29	34.78



Media Stocks

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	YEAR TO DATE PERCENT CHANGE
ClearChan	39.63	-.48	-15.4
Comcast	28.16	-.39	-14.1
Comc sp	27.29	-.30	-12.8
CoxCom	30.60	+.10	-11.2
Disney	25.10	+.20	+7.6
Fox Ent	26.75	+.11	-8.2
Gannett	87.66	+.58	-1.7
GTelevs	42.46	+1.26	+6.5
LibtyMA	10.69	-.15	-10.1
LibtyMB	12.80	...	-7.2
NewsCorp	34.87	+.46	-3.4
Thomson	30.04	-.34	-17.1
TimeWarn	16.41	-.01	-8.8
Viacom	38.05	-.05	-14.1
ViacomB	37.84	+.07	-14.7

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Sports

Okafor, Nelson Join Elite Class

UConn. center, St. Joe's guard are unanimous AP All-Americans

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL There's no debate when it comes to Emeka Okafor and Jameer Nelson. They're unanimous All-Americans.

The stars at Connecticut and Saint Joseph's led The Associated Press men's college basketball All-America team Tuesday, the first time since 1985 more than one player was chosen by every voter.

Okafor, Connecticut's 6-foot-10 junior center, and Nelson, a 5-11 senior guard at St. Joe's, earned a perfect 360 points by being picked on all 72 first-team ballots.

Lawrence Roberts of Mississippi State was third with 308 points, while Josh Childress of Stanford had 235 and Ryan Gomes of Providence completed the first team with 208.

In 1985, four players were unanimous choices: Patrick Ewing of Georgetown, Chris Mullin of St. John's, Wayman Tisdale of Oklahoma and Keith Lee of Memphis State.

From 1986-03, there was a total of only seven unanimous selections: Walter Berry of St. John's (1986), David Robinson of Navy (1987), Christian Laettner of Duke (1992), Glenn Robinson of Purdue (1994), Tim Duncan of Wake Forest (1997), Elton Brand of Duke (1999) and Jason Williams of Duke (2002).

JIM O'CONNELL (AP)

Beard Threpeats As All-American

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL The third time is the most satisfying for Alana Beard.

The Duke senior with a smooth jumper and moves to match became just the second three-time member of The Associated Press women's college basketball All-America

team Tuesday.

She was a unanimous selection on a squad that also features Connecticut's Diana Taurasi, Penn State's Kelly Mazzante, Stanford's Nicole Powell and Kansas State's Nicole Ohlde.

The only other player with a trio of first-team selections was Tennessee's Chamique Holdsclaw in 1997-99. The AP has been picking a women's All-America team since 1995. (AP)

BASEBALL | OPENING DAY NEARS



CLEAR CHANNEL: Shoppers eye baseball goods in the Tokyo Dome Tuesday while New York Yankees' Hideki Matsui is shown on a screen to promote Major League Baseball's opening series between the Yankees and the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, taking place in Tokyo next week.

LIVE ONLINE

Chat House

From washingtonpost.com/liveonline

Washington Post sports columnist **MICHAEL WILBON** was online Tuesday discussing the NCAA Tournament.

Wilbon, could you post anymore Maryland articles? Come on — how biased can you get? There is one local men's team left playing and that is George Mason. Why is there no love for them?

I hope you are joking, right? Maryland won six straight games to start March, was on national TV in each one of those games and you want us to do fewer stories on Maryland and more on a team in the NIT? You're not going to pass the test as a sports editor, pal.

Could UAB, Xavier or Alabama make it to the Final Four?

Any of them could make it. That's what we should have learned from this past weekend. I'm not certain about anybody, but at this point I'd prefer to stick with UConn. Three of my Final Four are still alive: Georgia Tech, UConn and Pitt. Stupidly, I had Mississippi State. But, I feel good about UConn.

Does St. Joe's match up well with Wake Forest? I think the Demon Deacons have the edge in terms of their backcourt, and they have bigger bodies.

If you think the Deacons have a better backcourt, I'm not sure what you are watching. Wake has size which St. Joe's doesn't have. But St. Joe's has the best backcourt in the country. Jameer Nelson is going to win some player of the year awards.

I used to be a huge Big 10 fan, but in the past few years, the conference has looked extremely weak. Is it possible that they will no longer be considered a major basketball conference and we can expect no more out of them than the MAC conference?

What are you nuts? The ACC was down several years ago. Would you have argued after two years of that they would have been no better than the Colonial Conference? Of course you wouldn't have made that argument. These things are cyclical.

TODAY'S TV LINEUP

PRO HOCKEY (7:30 p.m. on Comcast) The Capitals' road trip continues in Atlanta.

PRO BASKETBALL (8 p.m. on ESPN) Dallas visits Indiana.

PRO BASKETBALL (10:30 p.m. on ESPN) The Lakers can move within three games of Sacramento with a win over the Kings.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL (7 and 9 p.m. on ESPN2) The third round of the NIT features games between Villanova and Rutgers and Hawaii and Michigan.

SOCCER (2:30 p.m. on ESPN2) Chelsea and Arsenal play in a quarterfinal match of the Champions League.

In Tampa Bay, the Bucs Stop Here

Buccaneers about to enter new era without Sapp, Lynch, Johnson

FOOTBALL Fourteen months after winning their first Super Bowl, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers have a new look.

Warren Sapp is gone, as are Keyshawn Johnson and John Lynch, and coach Jon Gruden is putting his distinctive stamp on the team.

Despite salary-cap constraints, the Bucs have signed 17 players since the start of free agency, although none has the star appeal of Sapp, Johnson and Lynch, who have made a combined 15 trips to the Pro Bowl.

Sapp joined the Oakland

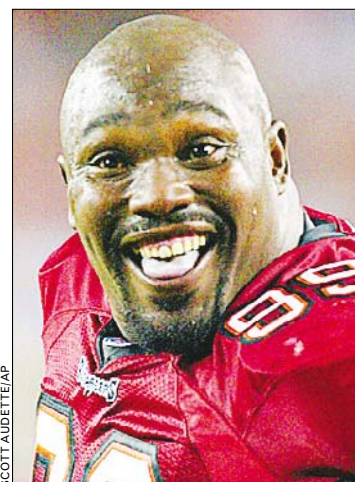
Raiders, while Lynch signed with the Denver Broncos on Monday — the same day Gruden greeted players for the start of the Bucs' offseason conditioning program.

Johnson, deactivated for the last six games of the 2003 schedule because of a squabble with Gruden, was traded to the Dallas Cowboys last week for Joey Galloway.

Since dominating Oakland in the Super Bowl in January 2003, eight starters have either left via free agency or were released or traded.

Although change is inevitable in the NFL, Gruden is sensitive to criticism of the team's treatment of Sapp and especially Lynch, a fan favorite whose departure was unexpected.

"It's an emotional time, and there's going to be backlash



Sapp, a former Buc, is now a Raider.

when decisions of this magnitude are made," Gruden says.

FRED GOODALL (AP)



RECOVERY: Colorado forward Steve Moore has been released from a hospital and faces weeks of rehabilitation following a hit by Vancouver's Todd Bertuzzi that broke his neck. (AP)

Sports

Baseball Players May OK Testing

Union chief's remarks address possibility of stricter steroid policy

BASEBALL | Major League Baseball union head Donald Fehr left open the possibility that players would agree to more stringent steroid testing.

"You have to be willing to look at things again as current situations change," Fehr said on Tuesday after meeting with the Boston Red Sox.

Asked if he would be surprised if the steroid policy was changed before the labor agreement expires in December 2006, Fehr said, "I'm not surprised about anything one way or another."

Baseball's steroid policy has

been ridiculed by some because players are tested just twice in a one-week span each year and penalties are far below those in most other sports.

Fehr met with the Red Sox players for more than two hours as part of an annual spring tour. He wouldn't directly address comments made by Curt Schilling in which the Boston pitcher incorrectly claimed the confidentiality of testing had been violated and called for testing to be conducted by third parties — which already is done.

Fehr did say any misunderstandings on that issue have been straightened out. JIMMY GOLEN (AP)



Fehr

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT.	GB	LIO	CONF.
New Jersey	41	28	.594	—	4-6	28-13
Miami	33	37	.471	8.5	8-2	22-21
New York	33	38	.465	9	7-3	26-19
Boston	31	40	.437	11	6-4	20-25
Philadelphia	29	42	.408	13	5-5	21-25
Washington	22	47	.319	19	2-8	14-33
Orlando	19	53	.264	23.5	2-8	15-30

CENTRAL	W	L	PCT.	GB	LIO	CONF.
X-Indiana	51	19	.729	—	7-3	32-11
X-Detroit	46	25	.648	5.5	9-1	30-15
New Orleans	36	34	.514	15	4-6	26-22
Milwaukee	34	35	.493	16.5	2-8	27-17
Cleveland	31	38	.449	19.5	7-3	25-21
Toronto	30	39	.435	20.5	5-5	19-26
Atlanta	22	49	.310	29.5	2-8	13-31
Chicago	20	50	.286	31	2-8	17-26

WESTERN CONFERENCE

MIDWEST	W	L	PCT.	GB	LIO	CONF.
Minnesota	48	22	.686	—	5-5	25-16
San Antonio	46	24	.657	2	7-3	26-16
Dallas	44	26	.629	4	5-5	27-17
Memphis	43	26	.623	4.5	8-2	26-18
Houston	40	29	.580	7.5	6-4	18-23
Utah	36	34	.514	12	6-4	21-21
Denver	37	35	.514	12	4-6	23-19

PACIFIC	W	L	PCT.	GB	LIO	CONF.
X-Sacramento	51	19	.729	—	6-4	29-14
L.A. Lakers	47	23	.671	4	8-2	23-18
Portland	35	35	.500	16	6-4	18-26
Seattle	32	38	.457	19	5-5	18-23
Golden State	29	40	.420	21.5	4-6	19-26
L.A. Clippers	27	44	.380	24.5	2-8	13-31
Phoenix	23	47	.329	28	3-7	13-31

Standings through March 22.

X-Clinched playoff berth.

♦ **Scoreboard:** Get a complete recap of Tuesday's action in the NBA, NHL and the women's NCAA tournament | washingtonpost.com/sports

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHEAST	W	L	T	OL	PTS.	GF	GA
Y-Tampa Bay	42	21	8	5	97	223	179
Atlanta	30	34	8	4	72	202	228
Florida	27	31	14	3	71	167	195
Carolina	26	30	13	6	71	151	183
Washington	22	42	9	2	55	171	231

ATLANTIC	W	L	T	OL	PTS.	GF	GA
X-Philadelphia	38	18	14	6	96	216	171
New Jersey	38	23	12	2	90	189	152
N.Y. Islanders	34	27	10	4	82	212	194
N.Y. Rangers	25	36	7	8	65	193	229
Pittsburgh	20	45	7	4	51	173	285

NORTHEAST	W	L	T	OL	PTS.	GF	GA
X-Boston	37	17	14	7	95	191	170
X-Toronto	41	23	9	3	94	223	193
X-Ottawa	39	21	9	6	93	241	168
Montreal	40	26	7	3	90	198	173
Buffalo	33	32	6	4	76	198	206

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL	W	L	T	OL	PTS.	GF	GA
X-Detroit	43	19	11	2	99	236	172
Nashville	34	27	11	3	82	198	200
St. Louis	34	28	11	2	81	174	185
Chicago	20	38	10	6	56	174	227
Columbus	21	42	8	4	54	161	221

NORTHWEST	W	L	T	OL	PTS.	GF	GA
Colorado	38	20	12	5	93	222	181
Vancouver	37	24	10	5	89	214	187
Calgary	38	28	7	3	86	186	167
Edmonton	33	27	12	4	82	206	194
Minnesota	25	27	20	3	73	163	167

PACIFIC	W	L	T	OL	PTS.	GF	GA
San Jose	37	20	12	6	92	198	171
Dallas	39	24	13	0	91	179	158
Los Angeles	28	24	16	7	79	196	198
Anaheim	27	31	10	8	72	173	201
Phoenix	21	31	18	6	66	183	226

Standings through March 22.

Y - Clinched division; X-Clinched playoff spot.

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Crystal City Underground	(703) 413-4500	Tysons Galleria	(703) 714-0422
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Landmark Mall II	(703) 941-5400	WASHINGTON, DC	
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Potomac Mills 2	(703) 490-3518	International Square (18 th & I st , NW)	(202) 822-1222
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(Across from Gameworks)	(443) 755-8700
Columbia Mall	(410) 964-9400
Congressional Plaza	(301) 468-7774
FSK Mall (Near Ritz Camera)	(301) 694-0088
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Valley Mall (Near Garfield's)	(301) 223-7881
Valley Mall 2 (Near Eatery)	(301) 223-7606
Laurel Mall (in front of Hecht's)	(301) 317-6200
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Lookout

Water World

Mars rover beams back best evidence yet of a hospitable home for life

SPACE | Mars had a shallow pool of briny water on its surface long ago, NASA said Tuesday in announcing what could be the strongest evidence yet that the now-dry Red Planet was once hospitable to life.

The space agency's scientists announced earlier this month that the Opportunity rover found evidence of water in Mars' distant past. But it was unclear whether the water was in the soil or on the surface.

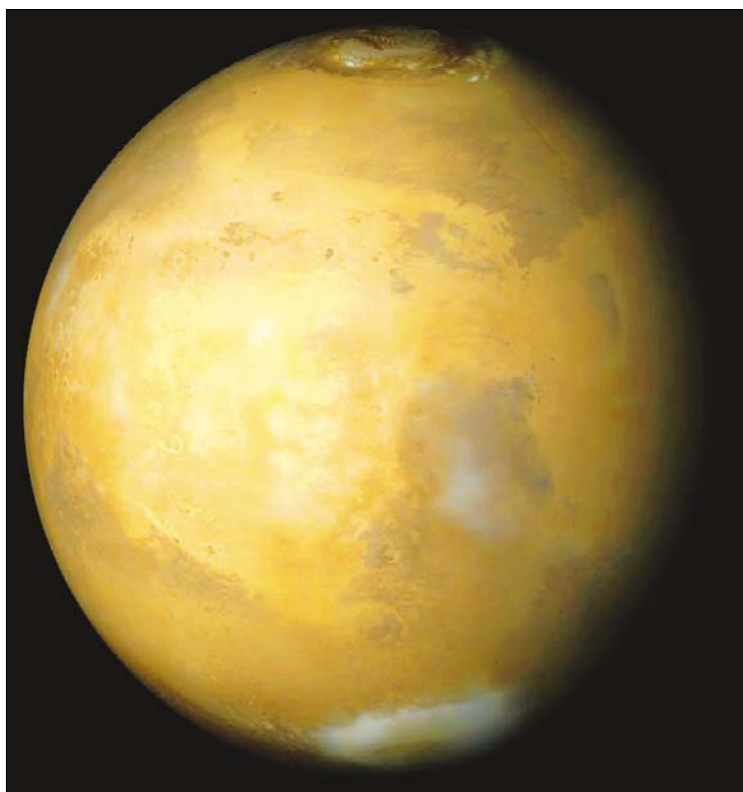
The new findings suggest there was a pool of saltwater at least two inches deep.

A rocky outcropping examined by the rover had ripple patterns and concentrations of salt — considered telltale signs that the rock formed in standing water.

"We think Opportunity is now parked on what was once the shoreline of a salty sea on Mars," said Cornell University astronomer Steve Squyres, the mission's main scientist.

The findings add to the growing body of evidence that the Red Planet was once was a wetter and possibly warmer place that may have been conducive to life.

"This is a profound discovery, it has profound implications for astrobiology, and I'd like to say if you have an interest in searching



WET WORK: Data from NASA's Mars rover Opportunity indicates the dry planet once had a pool of salty water, as evidenced by photos of rippled patterns in rock.



"We think Opportunity is now parked on what was once the shoreline of a salty sea on Mars."

LEAD MISSION SCIENTIST STEVE SQUYRES
OF CORNELL UNIVERSITY

for fossils on Mars, this is the first place you'd want to go," said Ed Weiler, NASA's associate administrator for space science.

Although Squyres referred to the water as a sea, scientists said it is not clear how big the body of water might have been or whether it was a fixed feature and not just a desert basin that flooded periodically.

The evidence also does not indicate when water covered the broad and flat region where Opportunity landed, called Meridiani Planum, or for how long.

Nor does it indicate if organisms actually lived on Mars.

If life did flourish at the site when it was awash in water, the type of rock found there is capable of preserving evidence of any biological material, he said.

"If we are correct in our interpretation, this was a habitable environment," Squyres said. "These are the kinds of environments that are very suitable for life."

Weiler noted that a group of outside scientists was brought in to review the rover mission scientists' findings before they were announced.

The findings give NASA impetus to expand its Mars exploration program to learn whether microbes ever existed there and, ultimately, whether people can live there, Weiler said.

NASA plans to send a more sophisticated rover to Mars in 2009 to probe for signs of life. In 2013, the space agency plans to send a robotic mission that would collect rock and soil samples and bring them back to Earth for more detailed analysis. ANDREW BRIDGES (AP)

High Five

A rare planetary alignment lights up the evening sky

SPACE | Five planets are arrayed across the evening sky in a spectacular night show that won't be back for another three decades.

For the next two weeks, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn should be easily visible at dusk, along with the moon.

The planetary lineup will be visible to the naked eye every night for an hour after sunset from around the world through early April. At the end of the year, the same five planets will reunite for a few weeks, but in the pre-dawn hours.

This particular planetary grouping may offer the best nighttime views until 2036, according to Myles Standish, an astronomer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif.

The orbits of the five planets take them to the same side of the sun every few years. The conditions have to be just right for all five to be clearly visible at dusk or dawn.

Stargazers should look to the western horizon just after sunset. Mercury, Venus, Mars and Saturn will be lined up in the sky with Jupiter close to the eastern horizon. Saturn will be almost directly overhead. (AP)

Bionic Man Hits the Trail

One high-tech leg, 2,000-plus miles for Appalachian hiker

THE GREAT OUTDOORS | A hiker with a battery-powered, bionic leg has set out to become the first amputee to walk the entire Appalachian Trail, a 2,168-mile trek from Georgia to Maine.

"I am on my way," said Scott Rogers from his starting point, Amicalola Falls State Park in

Dowsonville, Georgia.

"I have met tons of skeptics, people I don't know," "But people who know me know that if there is any way possible for me to do it, I am going to do it."

About 2,400 hikers start the trail each year; only one in five make it.

The 35-year-old former paramedic is embarking on the seven-month trek with the aid of a high-tech limb called a "C-Leg," a prosthesis powered by a battery,

driven by hydraulics and controlled by microprocessors that monitor his movement 50 times a second.

Rogers lost his left leg below the knee in 1998 when he shot himself while hunting a snake. He has since learned to water ski and fly an ultralight airplane despite the disability.

Two years ago, the leg had to be re-amputated above the knee, and he faced the prospect of using a wheelchair before he found the C-Leg.



Scott Rogers plans to be the first amputee to complete the Trail trek.

Hiking eight to 10 miles a day, Rogers hopes to reach Harpers Ferry, W.Va., by July. He will get off there and drive to the trail's end at Mt. Katahdin in Maine. There, he will get back on the trail and head south to the finish.

The "flip-flop" approach is intended to avoid wintry weather toward the end of the hike and is an accepted way to accomplish the journey.

The key will be to "set several small goals every day and find something to celebrate, something to be thankful for," Rogers said.

"And if I am not still hiking in November," he said with a laugh, "I will be OK." DUNCAN MANSFIELD (AP)



HYPHENATES: Joel and Ethan Coen, respectively, don't fear the term "remake"; they do fear Garry Marshall feel-good flicks.

The Quirk Ethic

Co-directing Coens re-style a comic classic

PERSONALITIES | Some filmmakers tiptoe around the word "remake." Others delicately suggest their film is a "revisitation or reimagining."

The Coen brothers guffaw over such euphemistic distinctions.

"Listen, this is a remake," says Joel Coen, who joined with brother Ethan to write, produce and direct "The Ladykillers," starring

Tom Hanks in an update of the 1955 Alec Guinness black comedy.

Leave it to the Coens, though, to call the film a remake while infusing it with so much of their own warped humor and amusingly macabre imagery that it feels entirely original.

In "The Ladykillers," Hanks plays the Guinness role, the master-

mind of a gang of daft thieves, who rent rooms from a sweet old lady as a base of operations then bumble through attempts to knock her off when she uncovers their plan.

The film puts an absurdist spin on reality as only the Coens can. In transplanting the London-based plot to the Deep South and creating a more robust, less easily intimidated heroine, they create a timeless realm where hip-hop punks

co-exist with old Southern charlatans. Sinister lines from Edgar Allan Poe manifest themselves in images of ravens and crumbly gargoyles, while an endless flotilla of garbage barges underscores the atmosphere of dewy decay.

The Coens have a small, loyal fan base and, occasionally, their films connect with a broader audience. But much of the general public simply does not get their films, and some critics gripe that their flamboyant characters could not exist in the real world.

"Well, they don't," the brothers say almost in unison, laughing.

"We don't do realism, and if that's what you go to the movies for, you're not necessarily going to like our stuff," says Joel Coen.

"But who goes to the movies for that?" Ethan Coen says. "Mainly, people go to movies for kind of the Hollywood pabulum, which isn't the real world, either."

"Right, they go for what they think is realism," Joel Coen says. "They see 'Heat,' Michael Mann, cops. It's gritty realism, when in fact it's just obviously not."

"Let me tell you the movie that really struck me," Ethan Coen added. "'Pretty Woman' is about a businessman that comes to L.A. and hires a prostitute to accompany him to all his business meetings, functions, that he has. It's a huge mainstream success. My God, that's realistic? People say we're weird?"

DAVID GERMAIN (AP)

Nowhere to Go

Guitar-rock saviors the Vines said it all on their first album

MUSIC | The Vines' 2002 debut album had a few songs with spirit and style, but the real lure of the Australian band rested in singer-guitarist Craig Nicholls, whose music and persona reflected such edgy obsession that you felt he might just be able to break ground emotionally in rock.

Not only could the group express youthful desperation so well in the song "Get Free" that Nirvana comparisons were inevitable, but Nicholls also tended to flail around on stage

as if in a deep, dark trance.

At a time in rock when so little was passionate and personal, it felt intriguing enough to put the group into the cadre of bands, from the White Stripes to the Hives, that were bringing vitality and heart back to a decayed rock scene.

The problem the second time out for the Vines is that Nicholls doesn't lead us anywhere. You certainly get the sense from "Winning Days" (Capitol) that he is a big music fan. His vocal shading reminds you in places of everything from the raspy desperation of Kurt Cobain to the harsh insistence of Liam Gallagher to the moody isolation of Thom Yorke.



A NON-VINTAGE YEAR: Craig Nicholls, left, may have run out of adolescent angst.

But this anonymous tone leaves an emotional void at the center of the album. The guitar textures are frequently invigorating enough when heard on the radio, but Nicholls's lyrics seem mushy and

ill-defined. Against today's mainstream rock competition, the Vines are still above average. But Nicholls once offered the hope of so much more. ROBERT HILBURN (LOS ANGELES TIMES)

Today's Top Stops

FOR COMPLETE EVENT LISTINGS SEE
WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT

Net Worth: Congress in Court

And what goes on, you ask, at the 11th Gallaudet University Congressional Basketball Classic? Former Atlanta Hawk Mike Glenn and NBA Hall of Famer Bob Lanier coach congressmen of both parties in the politics of b-ball and the public is invited to watch the towering athletic spectacle that is the Dunkin' Donkeys vs. Fighting Elephants showdown.

Gallaudet University Field House, 800 Florida Ave. NE; 7:30 p.m., free; 202-651-5996.

Catchy Songs: The Fever

2 He's shaking, shimmying, flailing and wailing — the Fever's got him, for sure. This New York band makes a lot of noise and doesn't stint on the theatrics, so a rock fan could do worse than come down with a case of these folks.

Black Cat, 1811 14th St. NW; 9 p.m., \$7; 202-667-0960. (U St.-Cardozo)

Hammer Time: David Mallet

3 His songs are more famous than he is, but that don't make David Mallet no nevermind; he's got plenty more songs and not much ego. Hear some of the songs recorded by everyone from Alison Krauss to Emmylou Harris, from Pete Seeger to John Denver, performed by Mallet himself.

Kennedy Center, Millennium Stage; 2700 F St. NW; 6 p.m., free; 202-467-4600. (Foggy Bottom-GWU)

Continued on page 14

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Please send press releases and photos to expressevents@readexpress.com

Entertainment

Boys Will Be Authors

ZEITGEIST | Call it a testosterone-driven Bridget Jones or call it "lad lit." While most publishers have been pushing "chick lit" to chronicle the highs and lows of women and romance, men who fumbled in the quest for Ms. Right were busy scribbling away. Just as Nick Hornby had done a decade ago with "High Fidelity" and "About a Boy," men writers were quietly documenting their failed and frustrating love lives.

"I wanted to show Bridget Jones in his Timberland shoes instead of his sling backs," said Kyle Smith, 32-year-old author of "Love Monkey," about a tabloid journalist who collects girlfriends.



JIM COOPER/AP



JUSTIN WALTERS/AP

Kyle Smith, left, brings the male perspective to urban dating lit with "Love Monkey"; Will Leitch wrote "Life as a Loser" after a bad breakup.

First-time novelist Scott Mebus turned a breakup into a creative endeavor with "Booty Nomad" after he split with a girlfriend and needed a sort of catharsis.

While chick lit often spices up the story with shoes and shopping and calories, lad lit tends to have a lot of male references.

Smith quotes Bob Dylan and Ernest Hemingway and his main character drinks plenty of Scotch. Will Leitch, author of the semi-autobiographical "Life as a Loser," also deals with the loss of his fiancée with large amounts of alcohol.

Leitch says that whenever he gets feedback for his book, it is mostly from women.

His book, he said "comes from a very honest place. I think that people respond to that."

PAULINE M. MILLARD (AP)

Today's Top Stops

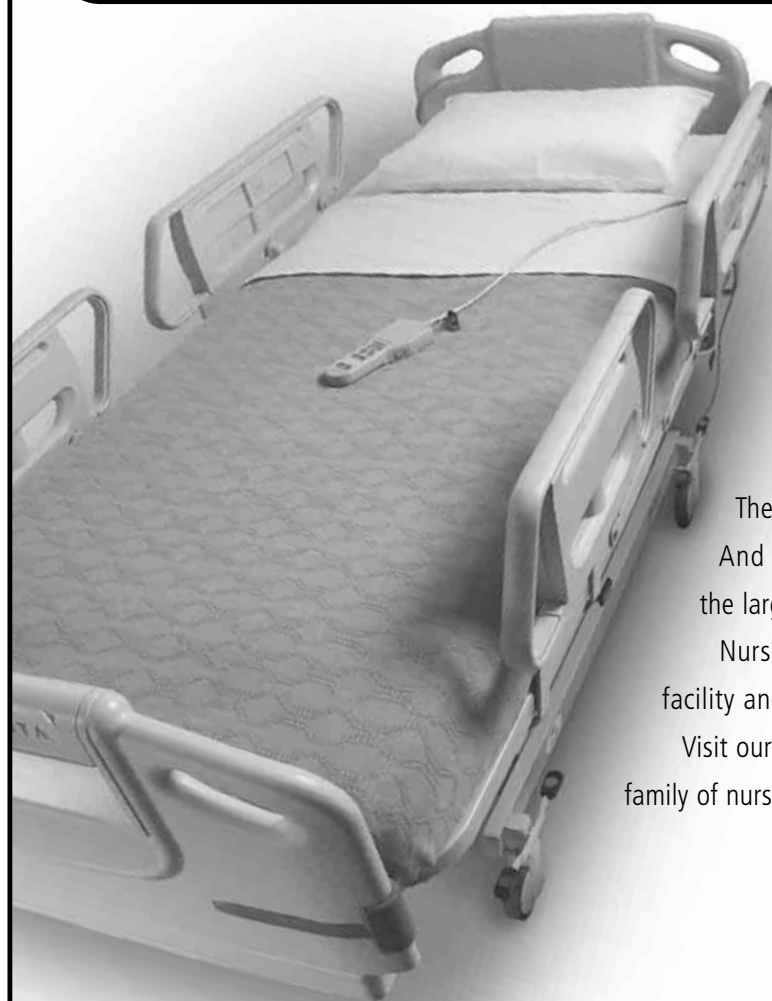
Continued from page 13

Funny Shorts: Comic Briefs at Warehouse

4 Comic Briefs is just what it sounds like: an evening of short, funny plays. Renegade Theatre Company's offerings this year are Rich Orloff's "The Whole Shebang," David Ives's "Sure Thing," and "Wanda's Visit" and "For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls" by Christopher Durang. Seth Ghitelman and Laurie Gilkenson direct; great local actors perform; you laugh. Through April 11.

Warehouse Next Door, 1017 7th St. NW; tonight's performance 8 p.m., \$15; 301-871-1487.

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Entertainment

Beyond the Little Grass Shack

BOOKS | Hawaii has given us pineapples, the hula, loud shirts and, of course, the ukulele. That diminutive stringed instrument is the subject of an appropriately modest-size coffee-table book, "The Ukulele: A Visual History" (Backbeat Books).

This revised and expanded edition of the 1997 book by Jim Beloff, ukulele authority and aficionado, provides a visual history of the uke

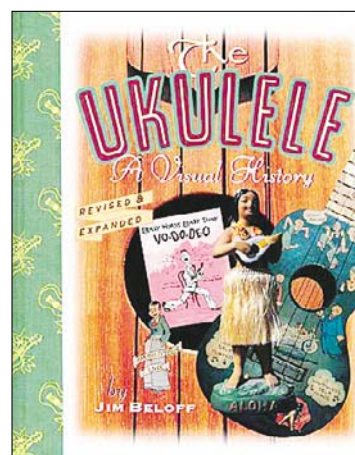
in more than 200 color photos.

Readers might be surprised to learn that although "ukulele" is a Hawaiian word (it means "jumping flea"), the instrument is not totally Hawaiian in origin. It was adapted from an even smaller instrument that Portuguese settlers introduced into the islands in 1879.

Beloff traces the development of the ukelele and its spread to the

mainland, where it found a home in the hands of Ukulele Ike (aka Cliff Edwards), Arthur Godfrey and Tiny Tim, who played his uke left-handed while tiptoeing through the tulips and blowing kisses.

The book describes the instrument's influence on pop music and pop culture worldwide, and its appearance on radio, television and in movies — even co-starring in



an Elvis film ("Blue Hawaii").

The illustrations include more than 100 of the finest and most unusual ukes, and sheet music covers for "Ukulele Lady," "Vo-Do-De-O," "Hello, Hawaii" and other ditties.

Ukes are shown on record covers, movie posters, a canned-pineapple label and print ads for everything from ice cream to mouthwash. It's also shown being strummed by Elvis, Bing Crosby, Lawrence Welk, Poncie Ponce and even Laurel and Hardy. **RON BERTHEL (AP)**

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Television

Destroy All Witnesses

Irwin vows not to be filmed almost feeding his baby to the crocs

NON-APOLOGIES | "Crocodile Hunter" Steve Irwin says he's learned one thing from a debacle in January, when the TV nature-show host shocked the world by holding his baby son and feeding a croc at the same time: Next time, keep the cameras away.

The display outraged family welfare groups and appalled viewers around the world. Irwin's lucrative U.S. television career was suddenly thrown into jeopardy and government officials investigated the



JEOPARDY: Bob, he's what's for dinner.

incident at his Australia Zoo on the northeastern coast of the country. He was never charged.

Asked in a yet-to-be televised interview what he had learned from the experience, Irwin said:

"Don't share everything you do with cameras."

Irwin, the TV host of the "Crocodile Hunter" program, stunned onlookers by carrying his son, Bob, a month old, into a crocodile pen during a wildlife show in January. He tucked the infant under one arm while tossing the 13-foot reptile a piece of meat with the other.

Irwin again dismissed suggestions he'd endangered his son, saying he kept the baby safely in his arm furthest from the croc.

"Baby Bob is in my left arm, nowhere near the croc, mate, I've got orangutan arms, and so that is the safest thing with wildlife you ever do," he said. (AP)

ON TV TONIGHT

DEEP DISH

KATHY GRIFFIN: THE D-LIST (9 p.m., Bravo) Comedian Kathy Griffin has no illusions about her place in the celebrity pecking order, and she tells us all about it in her very funny stand-up special. Her routine includes an amazing description of a scary encounter with Whitney Houston and a special moment with an addled Anna Nicole Smith. It's like listening to a friend who can't wait to share the best dirt.



Griffin

A FAMILY AFFAIR

The "America Undercover" documentary A BOY'S LIFE (7:30 p.m., HBO) provides a frighteningly intimate look at an apparently disturbed child. Produced and directed by Rory Kennedy, "Boy"

has the immediacy of a documentary with the nuanced detail of great fiction. And the boy's grandmother is an unforgettable character, both powerful and grotesque.

CLOSE FIT FOR ROBES?

THE WEST WING (9 p.m., NBC) A vacancy on the Supreme Court inspires a spirited debate in the Bartlet White House. Glenn Close appears as a possible candidate for the high bench.

SHE'S THINNER THAN MARISSA!

THE O.C. (9 p.m., Fox) Paris Hilton guest stars.

CULT CHOICE

A bickering couple (Alan Cumming, Jennifer Jason Leigh) invites friends to "celebrate" their crumbling marriage in the 2001 drama THE ANNIVERSARY PARTY (9p.m., Independent Film Channel). KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

3.24.04		6:00 PM		6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
LOCAL CHANNELS	WRC	4	News		NBC News	Hollywood	The Apprentice		The West Wing (N)		Law & Order "Evil Breeds"		News	Tonight Show
	WTTG	5	Simpsons	Simpsons	Friends	Seinfeld	'70s Show	American Idol	The O.C. "The L.A."	(N)	News		Friends	Drew Carey
	WJLA	7	News	ABC News	Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	My Wife-Kids	My Wife-Kids	Extreme Makeover (N)		Kingdom Hospital		News	Nightline
	WUSA	9	News	CBS News	USA Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Survivor: All-Stars (N)		King	The Stones	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		News	Late Show
	WDCA	20	Moesha	The Hughleys	'70s Show	'70s Show	Star Trek: Enterprise		Star Trek: Enterprise		Seinfeld	Raymond	Dharma-Greg	Dharma-Greg
	WMPT	22	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Business Rpt.	Artworks	National Geographic	On Stage at the Kennedy Center			Best Friend		In Search of Ancient Ireland	
	WETA	26	World News		Business Rpt.	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	National Geographic	New Americans						
	WHUT	32	At Howard		World News	MoneyWise	American Family	In Search of Shakespeare			World News	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N)	
	WBDC	50	The Parkers		Steve Harvey	The Parkers	Steve Harvey	Smallville "Perry"	Smallville "Viewers' Choice"			Will & Grace	Just Shoot	Will & Grace
BASIC CABLE	A&E	City Confidential			American Justice: Mystery		Biography: Fleiss		American Justice		City Confidential		Third Watch "10-13"	
	Animal	The Crocodile Hunter			Animals		Animals		Crocodile Hunter Diaries		Animal Cops Houston		Most Extreme "Defenders"	
	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live			BET com		BET com		College Hill		I'm Living		College Hill	
	Bravo	(4:30) "Little Buddha" 'PG'			The West Wing		Queer Eye for Straight Guy		Kathy Griffin: The D-List (N)		Keen Eddie		The West Wing	
	Comedy	Late Night			Daily Show		Mad TV		Yankers		Insomniac		South Park	
	Court	Evidence			Cops		Cops		I, Detective		I, Detective		Forensic	
	Discovery	Supermax "The Drug Bust"			The FBI Files		Lost City of Pompeii		Colosseum: Gladiator Story		Power, Privilege & Justice		Wonders of Ancient Rome	
	DISCH	Rescue 911			Rescue 911		Paramedics		Hitler: Medical Secrets		Diagnosis: Unknown		Is It a Boy or a Girl?	
	Disney	Even Stevens			Sister, Sister		Sister, Sister		Lizzie		"Going to the Mat" (2004, Drama) Andrew Lawrence.		Sister, Sister	
	E!	Love Chain			Good to Be		E! News (N)		Good to Be		Tara Reid: Hollywood Story		Teen Idols of the '80s	
	FX	(4:30) ★★★ "Independence Day" (1996)			★★½ "Bedazzled"		(2000, Comedy) Brendan Fraser, Elizabeth Hurley.		Nip/Tuck "Pilot"					
	HGTV	Before Aft			Building		Curb Appeal		House		House Detect		Before Aft	
	Family	Full House			Full House		7th Heaven		★★ "Lucky 7" (2003) Kimberly Williams-Paisley.		Weekend		Mission	
	History	Dead Reckoning			Modern Marvels		Convertibles		Car Tech of the Future					
	Lifetime	The Nanny			Designing		Golden Girls		Golden Girls		"A Family Under Siege" (2002) Mel Harris.		(DVS)	
	MTV	Made			Direct Effect		TRL (iTV)		Newlywed		Newlywed		Newlywed	
	NICK	Rocket			U-Pick		Rugrats		SpongeBob		Oddparents		All That	
	SCIFI	Stargate SG-1			★★ "Species" (1995) Ben Kingsley.		★★ "Species II" (1998) Michael Madsen.		★★★ "Fire in the Sky"					
	SPIKE	★★★ "Diamonds Are Forever" (1971, Adventure) Sean Connery, Jill St. John.			★★★ "The Untouchables" (1987) Kevin Costner. Premiere.		★★★ "Cliffhanger" (1993) (PA) Sylvester Stallone.		Ripley's Believe It or Not!					
	TBS	Home Imp.			Seinfeld		Seinfeld		Friends		Seinfeld		Seinfeld	
TLC	Clean Sweep			In a Fix (N)		What Not to Wear "Kathy"		For Better or for Worse (N)		Clean Sweep (N)		What Not to Wear "Kathy"		
TNT	Charmed "Lucky Charmed"			Law & Order "Deep Vote"		Law & Order		Law & Order		Law & Order		★★★½ "Pleasantville" (1998) Tobey Maguire. (DVS)		
USA	Walker, Texas Ranger			JAG "Salvation"		Law & Order		Law & Order		Law & Order		Law & Order		
VHI	Beverly Hills, 90210			Fabulous Life Of...		Fabulous Life Of...		VH1 Goes Inside		Rock With		Fabulous Life Of...		
SPAN	TELEM	Corte-Pueblo		Noticiero	Pasión de Gavilanes		Prisionera		El Alma Herida		Mujeres Apasionadas		Noticiero Tel.	Laura
	UNIV	Viviana		Noticiero	Amar Otra Vez		Mariana de la Noche		Bajo la Misma Piel		Don Francisco Presenta		Impacto	Noticiero
SPORTS	ESPN	SportsCenter (Live)			NBA		NBA Basketball Dallas Mavericks at Indiana Pacers. (Live)			NBA Basketball: Kings at Lakers				
	ESPN2	Karate			College Basketball: NIT Quarterfinal -- Teams TBA		College Basketball: NIT Quarterfinal -- Teams TBA			SportsCenter (Live)				
NEWS	CSN	NASCAR			SportsNite (Live)		NHL Hockey Washington Capitals at Atlanta Thrashers. (Live)			Postgame			SportsNite	
	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight			Anderson Cooper 360		Paula Zahn Now			Larry King Live			NewsNight-Aaron Brown	
	FNC	Special Report (Live)			Fox Report-Shepard Smith		The O'Reilly Factor			Hannity & Colmes			On the Record	
	MSNBC	The Abrams Report (Live)			Hardball (Live)		Countdown-Olbermann			Deborah Norville Tonight			Scarborough Country (Live)	
MOVIES	AMC	(5:30) ★★★ "The Boys in Company C" (1978) 'R'			★★½ "Navy SEALs" (1990, Adventure) Charlie Sheen. 'R'			★★★ "In Harm's Way" (1965, Drama) 'NR'						
	TCM	★★★ "The Cincinnati Kid" (1965) Steve McQueen. 'NR'			Chaplin			★★★ "City Lights" (1931, Comedy) 'G'			Unknown Chaplin			
	HBO	Catch Me			City on Fire: '68 Tigers			A Boy's Life (N)			Deadwood "Deadwood"			
	MAX	Spoken			★★★ "The First Wives Club" (1996) 'PG'			(:15) ★★½ "Deliver Us From Eva" (2003) LL Cool J. 'R'			★★½ "Two Weeks Notice" (2002) 'PG-13'			
	SHO	(:15) ★★½ "For Keeps" (1988) Molly Ringwald. 'PG-13'			(7:55) ★ "Serving Sara" (2002) 'PG-13'			Miami			Soul Food (iTV) (N)			
	TMC	(:15) ★★½ "The Night They Raided Minsky's" (1968)			★½ "Wilder Napalm" (1993) Debra Winger. 'PG-13'			★★ "Die Another Day" (2002) Pierce Brosnan. 'PG-13'						
	STARZ!	(5:30) "Leave It to Beaver"			(:05) ★★ "Anger Management" (2003) Adam Sandler.			★★ "View From the Top" (2003) 'PG-13'			★½ "Bad Company" (2002) 'PG-13'			
ENCORE	★ I Am Sam			★★ "The Crush" (1993) Cary Elwes. 'R'			★★ "Snow Dogs" (2002) Cuba Gooding Jr. 'PG'			★★★ "Life as a House" (2001) Kevin Kline. 'R'				

Americans Are Keeping The Top Up

AUTO BUYING | Fewer Americans chose to drive with the wind in their hair the past couple of years, a leading provider of auto statistics said Monday.

Total U.S. convertible registrations were 296,433 in 2003, down 2.3 percent from the previous year, according to Polk & Co. Convertible sales grew in the late 1990s and peaked at more than 310,000 in 2001 before falling.

"Convertibles are a more discretionary purchase than most vehicles and are sensitive to changes in consumer confidence and buying attitudes," said Lonnie Miller, director of Polk's analytical solutions arm. "The production of new specialty vehicles is also providing consumers with more shopping choices." (AP)

Chrysler's Cruiser Flips Its Lid

ROAD TEST | Move over, New Beetle. There's a new, lowest-priced convertible on the market.

Arriving in showrooms in time for spring, Chrysler's 2005 PT Cruiser Convertible has a starting manufacturer's suggested retail price, including destination charge, of \$19,995.

This undercuts the Volkswagen New Beetle Convertible, which starts at \$21,475, and will help ensure that Chrysler, which is introducing two new convertibles this calendar year, "will be No. 1 in total convertible sales in 2004," according to Jeff Bell, vice president of Chrysler/Jeep marketing.

The second convertible, due closer to summer, is the open top version of the Chrysler Crossfire.

Consumers have been asking about a PT convertible ever since the automaker displayed a "design



CRAZE READY: But will it be as spookily everywhere as the original PT Cruiser?

study" model at the 2001 New York auto show.

The new, four-passenger production version retains the retro styling of the current PT hatchback, but with only two, albeit very long, doors.

The vehicle has been extensively revised to serve as a solid-riding, shake-resistant soft-top model.

Officials said the work entailed changes from the windshield pillar on back and involved such things as new "smart" glass windows, strengthened rear seat structure, re-tuned suspension components and even a novel "sport bar" that extends, wing-like, above the rear seat area.

This bar also serves to direct air

2005 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER CONVERTIBLE TOURING EDITION

TYPE: Front-engine, front-wheel-drive, four-passenger, two-door convertible

ENGINE: 2.4-liter, turbocharged, double overhead cam, inline four-cylinder

MILEAGE: 20 mpg city, 25 highway

PRICE AS TESTED: \$25,985

BASE PRICE: \$22,900

over and beyond the rear seat for less wind buffeting for passengers.

The PT convertible does share the same engines and transmissions as well as basic suspension setup — MacPherson struts in front and twist axle beam with Watt's linkage in back — of the PT hatchback. It has the same platform and overall size, too. ANN M. JOB (AP)

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FINANCIAL SVCS/MORTGAGE—Willing to educate for mortgages & financial services. FT/PT. Serious applicants only. Teresa 703-307-0327.

FLORAL DESIGNER—Exper. full time. Silver Spring. 301-588-8484

FLORAL SALES

Looking for an opportunity in the floral industry? Check out www.palacejobs.com. Call 202-833-1093.

GARAGE DOOR INSTALLER

Good driver's license. Will train right person. Call 703-968-5538 /5512

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE/LANDSCAPE

Personnel needed. Driver's lic. necessary. Call 703-822-0900

GROUNDSKEEPER—For garden style apartment complex located in Oakton, Va. FT w/paid health insurance, 401(K). Must speak & understand English. Able to start immediately. Fax resume to: 703-255-2003 or E-mail to: summitsquare@cox.net

Hotel Bellman/Driver

Good Driving Record. Near Courthouse Plaza Metro. Call 703/247-1002

Hotel Front Desk Supervisor

1-2 years experience Near Courthouse Plaza Metro. Call 703/247-1002.

Hotel Front Desk Clerk

Friendly, out-going Near Courthouse Plaza Metro. Call 703/247-1002.

HOTEL

Holiday Inn Express Springfield, VA

We are currently searching for people to join our team!

Asst Front Office Mgr
Guest Service Agents
Housekeepers
Night Auditors FT/PT
Van Driver

Full benefit package for FT employees included. Please apply in person for all positions at: 6401 Brandon Avenue, Springfield, VA, Phone (703) 644-5555. Located on TAGS and Metro buslines and close to Franconia/Jarvisfield METRO. We are an EOE and promote a drug-free workplace.

Hotel Reservationist

Good telephone voice. Near Courthouse Plaza Metro. Call 703/247-1002

HOTEL

THE CANDLEWOOD SUITES FAIRFAX

is currently recruiting for an individual to lead our sales efforts. This position requires an aggressive, dynamic professional with a passion for not just selling but creating and nurturing business relationships. Interested parties should fax their resume and salary requirements to 703-359-4492.

Housekeepers wanted

400-room hotel. Near Courthouse Plaza Metro. Call 703/247-1002

Housekeepers wanted. 400-room hotel. Near Courthouse Plaza Metro. Call 703/247-1002

AUTO SALES

Classifieds

JOBS

HAIRSTYLIST
Busy salon, Clinton. Needs booth renters. 240-882-2777

HVAC—co. needs **Manager/Technician** to run service dept. Excel. pay & benes. CFC cert. **703-550-3440.**

Insurance/Admin Assistant Farragut North, DC. Small fast-paced insur. ofc. 2-3 yrs exper. required. in life and health (group). Strong knowl. of Excel, Word and Outlook. Punctual, detail-oriented, able to meet deadlines & multi-task, excellent grammar, writing & proofing skills. Benes incl. Refs. & background check req. Send resume to:
Address@aol.com r Fax: 301-907-8899

IT NATIONAL ON-SITE COMPUTER COMPANY
Geeks on Call, DC has several Technician/Engineer positions available. Duties include providing on-site IT solutions for residential and business customers in the metro DC area. Min. A+ or Net+ required. MCSE, Exchange, MAC, Security clearance a plus. Salary, commission, car, much more. Rapid advancement. Career opportunities. Email resume to: jeff.phelps@geeksoncall.com for details.

Landscape Architect/Environmental Planner—**03/17/04**—Baltimore, MD. You can help save the earth—and have fun too! Biohabitats (www.biohabitats.com), a leading ecological restoration assessment, planning and design firm, is looking for a Landscape Architect to join our Chesapeake/Delaware Bay Bioregion office in Baltimore.

Project responsibilities will include the assessment, mapping and analysis of natural resources for a variety of ecological restoration projects, master plans, and sustainable design projects throughout North America. Position requires seasoned (accredited BA/BS LA or Env Planning and 4+ yrs exp) in natural resource planning and assessment using ArcGIS and Spatial Analyst. Familiarity with Photoshop, PowerPoint, & Adobe Ill and 3D-modeling is desirable. Graphic, communication, writing and team building skills are imperative.

Salary is commensurate with exp, ability and skill set. Benefits include paid holidays, paid vacation, comp time, health, dental, disability, life, profit sharing and payment of licensure exam costs for qualified individuals.

Mail or e-mail resumes incl references and non-returnable work samples. CD-ROMs may be included. EOE.

Tim Burkett, Operations Team Leader
Biohabitats, Inc.
15 West Aylesbury Road
Timonium, Maryland 21093
tburkett@biohabitats.com

LANDSCAPE INSTALLATION SUPERVISOR

With comm'l & residential planting & hardscape exper. Excellent driving record req'd. Call Bill 301-420-3167.

LCSSW—PT/FT Substance abuse exp. Also PT admin asst. M/F. Fax to 301-423-2750.

Leasing Consultant (PT)

Responsible professional needed for weekend hrs and also 1-2 days/wk. Fax resume to 703-255-2003.

LEGAL ASST—Professional, experienced. P/T. Fax: 202-429-1851. (17th & Conn)

Maintenance Engineer

Outstanding opportunity for qualified candidate! Established high-rise apartment community in Arlington is seeking a team member proficient at general building and apartment maintenance. Good communication skills. 3rd class boiler license preferred, but not required. Position offers excellent compensation and benefits. This is a live-on position and applicant must have valid drivers' license and own transportation. Submit resume to 703-920-2003 no later than 3/31/04

MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT MANAGER—Come grow with us. National industrial staffing company seeking aggressive self starter to climb ladder of success in Rockville, Md. CSR and Outside Sales exp. a plus. \$25K plus generous bonuses and benefits. Fax resume to: 703-393-6656 attention Jerry

MANAGEMENT TRAINEE \$15/HOUR UP TO

No exper. neces. FT/PT. Corp. expanding. Call 301-313-0404.

MARKETING/ENTRY LEVEL

SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT

Growing Adv. Co. handling a wide range of clients has **FULL TIME ROOKIE** pos. in **E-LVL**:

- Sales
- Marketing
- Promotions

No Exp. Nec. Rapid Advcemnt. **MUST BE ABLE TO START IMMED.** College Degree preferred! Up to \$40K 1st yr. Call Elizabeth at 703-534-7056 or fax resume to 703-534-7076.

MEDICAL RECEPT—Mature-minded. Exper. with Medisoft preferred. Fax cv or resume & salary to: 202-269-0390

Meetings:

Govt. Mtg. Planner—Min. 5 yrs exp. Work w/govt. contracts and svc oriented. Pos reqs. Self-starter w/multi tasking skills & the ability to work on own & meet strict deadlines. Exp w/site selection, developing meeting materials, coord. registration & hotel rgstrs., providing on-site support, & handling daily correspondence w/vendors & clients. Flexibility for travel & OT required. For consideration please fax res. sal. req. to (703) 518-0277

MAINTENANCE—Subcontract renovation. Good pay. Call 571-243-4395 or fax, 703-768-4699.

MARKETING ASSISTANT

Successful RE team in Bethesda ISO FT computer wiz with creative skills for all advertising/marketing. Quark, Photoshop & MS Office with Publisher. **Fax resume to: 301-951-0639**

MECHANIC-HELPERS & SUBCONTRACTORS
Needed. Exper'd in commercial doors, glass, locks, hardware, access controls repair & installation. Excel. wage. Benes. Co. truck. Call 301-495-0916; E-mail: info@helpsolutions.com

MEDICAL BILLER

Experienced Medical Biller. F/T for busy Bethesda office. Must have HMO knowledge. Fax resume with salary requirements to: 301-931-0166

Mental Retardation - DAY PROGRAM INSTRUCTORMust have experience in DD adults. Valid drivers license and good driving record required. Fax resume 301-918-9758.

Models, Actors, Singers & Dance

TV, music & fashion videos also movies and print. New & used people needed. PT/FT 1-215-618-1551.

Movie company is seeking for helpers. Salary & benefits. 301-881-6999.

NANNY

F/T Nanny for a 2 yr old. Light housekeeping. Fluent English. Must own car. Compensation based on experience. Available ASAP. Please contact. Tysons Corner location. 703-560-7590

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Busy Laurel based messenger service in need of Operations Manager w/proven track record. Must be comfortable in computer environment & be cust. svc. oriented. 301-470-5620 or send resume to **jobs@citypl.com**.

OPERATOR-SWITCHBOARD needed for medical claims ofc. Exper. req'd. Starting at \$11.24/hr. w/excel. benes. pkg. Bilingual a plus. Fax resume to Administration Dept. 202-526-7959.

OPHTHALMIC TECHNICIAN—Busy ophthalmology center specializing in refractive surgery seeks exper. ophthalmic tech for Bethesda location. Great benefits. Fax resume to 703-287-4127.

OPTICIAN—Private practice. Edging & dispensing exper. Fax resume to 301-220-0080.

OPTOMETRIST

Wanted FT/PT. Saturdays a must. 571-334-1515 Mr. Han

Painter

Apartment Community in Suburban Md, looking for an experienced FT painter. Excellent benefits. Fax resume to 301-794-8962.

PAINTER—Fine residential, 5 yrs exp., own trans./tools. FT, paid vacation, opt. health ins. 703-966-2558 or 703-758-2540

PLUMBER AND HELPERS

Great pay, great boss.

Contact George (301) 437-5538.

PRE-SCHOOL ASST. TEACHER

FT & substitutes. CDA beneficial. D.C lic. NAEYC accredited. Indiv. energetic, motivated. Excellent salary and benes. Call 202-363-7380.

Program Coordinator—A growing non-profit, located in Herndon, VA needs a direct communicator who is organized and, thorough. Responsibilities include processing a variety of documents from different departments, coordinating the department schedules and follow-up, and the logistics of different department meetings. Duties also include maintaining the accounts payable and receivable functions and general office duties. Position requires knowledge of Quick Books, Microsoft Office programs. salary range \$35,000 - \$38,000 Fax resume to 703-435-3981 or email to: adele@humanefac.org

QC ANALYST - ENTRY LEVEL

Testing internet based software applications. F/T w/ benefits. Submit resume to careers at www.alexus.com
Alexus International
EOE. No calls please

RECEPTIONIST—Arlington based IT firm is looking for a FT Receptionist w/5 yrs office experience. This position includes answering phones, greeting clients and performing administrative duties as needed. Ideal candidate must have strong computer skills using MS Word, the Internet and knowledge of databases a plus, able to handle multiple tasks simultaneously as well as excellent oral and written communication skills. Please send resume to: **resume@iimage.com**

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\$30,000-\$65,000

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Cash Bonuses, 401K Plan, Complementary Meals, Health Insurance, Paid Vacations & Free Parking. Outstanding opportunity to work in Georgetown or Tysons Corner. Send, Fax or E-mail resume to:

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Attn: J. Carter
3104 M St., NW, Washington, DC 20007
Fax: 202-337-0697 E-mail: brokerjfh@erols.com

RESTAURANT

PEACOCK CAFE INC.

Well-established, successful full-service restaurant is seeking a highly motivated, professional, exper'd. individual for Manager/Asst. Manager position at our Georgetown and Baltimore/Inner Harbor locations. Min. 3 yrs. exper. in managerial position required. Competitive salary and benefits available. Please e-mail or fax your resume: **form@peacockcafe.com**
202-625-1402

RESTAURANT

SERVERS, HOST/ HOSTESSES & LINE COOKS

H2O Restaurant. Please apply in person Wednesday & Thursday 12-3 800 Water St. SW. FOF

QUALITY CONTROL/ASST SUPERINTENDENT
Needed for commercial/medical nationwide contractor. Fax resume to: Batten & Shaw Inc., 615-292-3288.

RECEPTIONIST

Exclusive fitness center & day spa seeks professional individual. The Women's Club. Dulles. **703-817-0700**

RECEPTIONIST

Front Desk Receptionist (part-time)

Meridian International Center is seeking a p/t **Receptionist** to perform front desk work and general administrative duties. P.M. shift (12:30 - 5:30) available. Excellent verbal and written communication skills essential, including a clear and concise phone voice. General office machine and computer skills required. BA Degree preferred. \$12 hr. Send resume and cover letter to: 1630 Crescent Place, NW Washington, DC 20009. Fax: 202-939-5503. E-Mail: DGood@Meridian.org. Deadline 04/02/04. No Phone Inquiries Please. EOE

RESTAURANT

For NW Caterer. Weekdays only, no evenings. \$15 p/hr to start. Fax resume to (202) 457-9078.

Restaurant—General Manager needed. Fast paced pizza/Italian restaurant. Submit resumes to Ginny, 301-983-9828, or e-mail jennifer@potomacpizza.com

RESTAURANT MANAGERS—For growing restaurant in VA & MD. \$38-\$60K. Great growth. 800-351-7557 or FAX 800-208-0633/ dss907@aol.com

Restaurant

Server Part Time Blue Point Grill

Exciting opportunity for experienced Server to join our highly successful restaurant located in popular Old Town Alexandria, adjacent to our parent company, Sutton Place Gourmet. Voted by The Washingtonian as a Top 100 restaurant. Must be available work both day and evening hours. Apply in person.

Blue Point Grill
600 Franklin Street
Alexandria, VA

RETAIL—Chain of Futon furniture stores seeks P/T & F/T Sales Managers and Associates for MD,DC&VA locations. Exc. oppty. with great pay & benefits. Please fax resume to: Shaun 301-424-9442

Sales—Earn \$2,000+ comm per week. FT/PT. Lead program avail. 703-906-5679

SALES

Local large plumbing co. NEEDS exper'd. Salesperson/Estimator for their HExprVAC Contracting Division. Top salary & benes., too many to list. If interested, send resumes to: Wash. Post Box M4663, DC 20071-6250. EOE

Sales—**PEOPLE WANTED** to locate new accounts for snack company \$50-\$70 paid per acct. 301-855-3785

SALES



Telephone Sales Representatives Classified Advertising Part Time On Call

The Washington Post has 3 vacancies for telephone sales representatives to work in our busy Contact Center of the Classified Advertising Department. We are seeking ambitious and energetic individuals to sell The Washington Post advertising products over the telephone.

Preferred candidates will possess the following:

- Previous telephone sales experience; preferably
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- Strong motivation to work in a competitive sales environment
- Excellent customer service skills and telephone etiquette
- An ability to communicate in a persuasive style
- An ability to input ad copy while listening to advertisers
- PC proficiency and familiarity with the Windows environment

The most successful candidate will thrive in a competitive, fast pace environment, will have the ability to work with multiple deadlines and will be a model team player.

The Washington Post offers a competitive benefits and compensation package to include monthly incentive bonus.

Qualified candidates should forward cover letter, resume and salary requirements to:

The Washington Post

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Attn: TSR/PTOC

We are committed to diversity in the workplace and promote a drug-free work environment.

RETAIL

Fast growing jewelry retailer looking for aggressive, motivated Asst. & key Sales Assocs. Competitive salary & bonus prgm. St. Charles, Laurel & Forestville malls. Call Jeremy, 301-705-8026.

SALES

\$3,000 SIGNING BONUS FOR THE RIGHT PERSON

29 year management consulting company desires professional business-to-business phone salesperson. Call Susan, 888-471-5800 ext. 23.

SALES (A Rare Opportunity) Prosperous NoVA/MD company in the home improvement industry is expanding. Prior industry experience not necessary but welcome. Professional training program provided. Someone who needs at least \$65,000 per year with the potential of six figures. Incentive and bonus. Car essential. No overnight travel. Call Mr. Quick between 9am and 3pm, 301-560-1412.

SALES

Local residential window & door company seeking motivated sales reps to handle huge demand. Experience preferred but will train exceptional applicants. Leads provided daily, highest commissions, exotic bonus vacations. Come work for the best! **\$80K first year for closers.** 1-800-257-0633

SALES PEOPLE—Busy delivery service serving Balt/Wash/No Va needs energetic people for account development. Base sal, comm & benefits. Great income potential. Please call ABC Delivery, 443-864-7515.

SALES REP. Sterling & Vienna. Base+comm. \$35-\$50K 1st yr. Full benes. EOE M/F/D/V. Call Mr. Fuller, 703-478-3225; fax 703 478-3215

SUPERVISOR—Detail-oriented person to oversee operations at busy parking garage loc. in Arlington, VA. \$10/hr., Sat. & Sun., 6:30am-2:30pm. Call Mr. Thompson at 703-528-9863.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS



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**Thursday, March 25, 2004
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Entry Level and Experienced
Voice & Data Cable Pullers

NET100, a certified BICSI training facility and industry leader in business communication services, is holding a Career Open House for Experienced and/or Entry Level Voice & Data Cable Pullers installing structured cabling systems for new construction and/or occupied spaces in commercial buildings. Come join a team that provides Paid On-The-Job and In-House Training, Industry Certification Program, Growth Opportunities, and an Outstanding Compensation/Benefit Package! Ideal candidates must have reliable transportation to travel between client sites in Northern VA, MD, and DC. Interested applicants should stop by the Open House held at:

Hampton Inn & Suites
117 Fort Evans Road NE
Leesburg, VA 20176-4420

(No appointments necessary)

For more information or directions please call (703) 818-8606, ext 480. If unable to attend, please fax resume to (703) 818-1955 or e-mail at acareer@net100tld.com.

Networking/
IT professionals
need not apply.

EOE

CAREER TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Security—VUSS has immed openings for PT/FT exp'd registered VA Armed Security. \$13/hr. in Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania, & Manassas. For immediate consideration email: webmaster@vuss-security.com Fax resume to 703-497-7453 or

TEACHER—2 yr old, CDA a must. F/T. Call 202-293-1460 Ask for Ms. Charyn

TEACHER

ASSISTANT TEACHER

Qualifications: 2 years experience in Child Development Center and Child Development Certificate. Fax resumes to: 202-484-3919 or call Ms. Johnson at 202-484-3113

Teachers Aide Wanted—\$15/hr. After school tutorial program in Montgomery County area. Must possess a high school diploma or GED and must be fluent in speaking Spanish. 410-982-7583/1-888-798-2288

Teachers

District of Columbia Public Schools seeks Outstanding Teachers! Are you a Certified Teacher?

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Teach DC
www.TeachDC.org**

Teachers Wanted

After school tutorial. Anne Arundel & Montgomery counties. \$31/hr, qualified applicants call 410-982-7583/1-888-798-2288

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TELEMARKETING—The Smith Co has immed eyes & wknd hours avail. Renew subscriptions for some of the nation's leading publications. Training provided. Exc. communication skills a must. Hourly rate or comm and/or bonus. Health ins. & paid vac. 1 blk from Van Ness metro (Redline). Call Ed Jones 202-895-0900, 10am-4pm Mon-Fri. The Smith Co. EOE

TELEPHONE SALES

Up to \$1000/week, comm. only. Room for advancement. 301-306-9089

TELEVISION NEWS PHOTOGRAPHER

For Federal news operation 2+ years major market experience. Fax resume 703-768-6767 Rush Reel to 1602 Bell View Blvd. #630 Alexandria, Va. 22307 EEO

TOW TRUCK DRIVER—Medium-hvy duty. Need own tools. CDL req'd. Some training avail. Shift work includes wknds. Salary + comm. Call M-F, 1-5pm 301-699-9204.

TRAVEL AGENT—2 years experience. World Span. Salary commensurate with experience. Great benefits. Fully paid health, dental and life insurance. 401k plan with matching funds. Pension program. Free air travel. Location Rosslyn near metro. Fax resume and salary, 703-522-0616

TRUCK DRIVER—W/Class A lic. & 3 yrs exper. on the road. 301-927-9331, 301-674-9419.

VET RECEPT—FT/PT. Mon-Fri w/ alternate Sats. Seeking outgoing self-motivated indiv. \$9-12/hr.

KENNEL ATTENDANT—PT. Mon-Sun & holidays. \$6-9/hr.
Apply in person: 2935 Chain Bridge Rd, Oakton, VA.

VETERINARY RECEPTIONIST

FT. Afternoons. Prefer exp., but will train. Greenbriar Animal Hospital 703-378-8813.

Washington Suites Georgetown is hiring!

We are currently looking for an **Overnight Security/Bellperson** and a **Valet Parking Attendant**. Both positions require dependability, flexibility and a good driving record.

We offer competitive wages and great benefits for full-time employees. For consideration please apply in person at 2500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW or fax resume to 202-338-3818. EEO/AA

WINE SALES REP—NoVA-DC. jobs@argus-corp.com

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40 hrs/wk, Sat req'd, Benefits, \$9-11.50, Bkgd check req'd, Apply between 12 & 2 Tues-Fri at 3304 Kennelworth Ave. Hyattsville, Md. DoT medical card needed. 301-403-1729

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FT position. Must have experience. Fax resume 202-337-4183

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Companion/Driver/Errands—N.VA. area. Refs. 703-771-2259

STUFF

DIN RM SET—Will sell separately, antique Oriental china cab 77"x40"x13" Rosewood w/circle carved plaques on 2 drs below glass drs. Din rm tbl w/3 18" lves (126") seats 14, square legs, carved open fret work, 10 chrs incl 2 arm chrs w/cushions on solid seats, purchased , in Hong Kong in 1968. Will sell separately, \$4000 for all. 410-987-4144

EXERCISE EQUIP—Tread Mill, Trotter 640, Stair-master 4000PT, Tuff Stuff, Power cage w/free weights, Must go. best offer. 301-977-8841

FURN—Mahog empire tbl, circa 1830; Singer sewing mach w/tbl, circa 1890; oak tbl w/4 chs. Misc. 703-356-2634

HOT TUB never used! Seats 6, 30 jets, w/warr. Retail \$5,000, sell \$2995, call Meg: 703-609-4325

HUGE OIL PAINTING COLLECTION
Many artists/subjects/styles/sizes. SAT. 3/27 10-5. MOSER GAL. 9970 Main St. Ffx. 703-591-5650

MISC—6' French doors w/2' transom by Pella; Pella casement windows w/transom 29x79 & 35x79; brand new weathershield double hung window 29x49. Best Offer. 202-337-9292 or 202-285-3419

PIANO—Grand Kawai RX-2, 5ft 10 in, bought 11/98, glossy black fin, excel condition, built in humidifier, used by advanced player (leaving country) Aprr \$14,700 202-413-2798

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PETS

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ALEX/SEMINARY RD **\$2300mo**
4BR Large hse, nice nghbrhd. avl. now. Call 703-873-9550.

ALEX/TH—3BR, 3.5 BA. \$2075/mo
ALEX—new 4BR, 2.5BA. \$2100/mo. No pets. 301-529-2295

ALEXANDRIA/OLD TOWN
2BR 2½BA Townhouse fireplace, hardwood flrs 1 indoor parking, \$1900/mo. Avail. March 1. 703-715-2564

ANNAN—3BR 2-BA single family house, off Gal-lows Rd & Annandale Rd. Very conv. to shop'g, 10 mins. to Spgfld, 7 mins. to Tysons Corner. \$1500/mo. 571-237-4574

ANNANDALE—brick front TH, 1 car gar, 3BR, 2.2BA, hnwrd flrs, deck, e/i kit, 1 min frn 395. \$1800. Avail now. Call 571-435-4989

ARL/Ballston—New 1BR condo, prkg, wlk metro \$1400 703-338-5452
ARL/Clerendon—Wlk to metro. Effcy, cac, \$700 incl utls. 703-527-6415

ARL—Close to Pentagon & Navy Annex, 3BR, 2.5BA, fin bsmt, 2 car gar, pvt fen'd yard, cac, \$2,500/mo. Call: 703-675-5778

ARL/CRYSTAL CITY — 1 & 2BR apts, all utls incl. w/CATV, nr Metro/shops/rest. Free prkg. Short-term lease. Furn effcy \$850. 1 BR's Unfurnished \$1100, furnished \$1200. 2 BR's unfurnished \$1200, furnished \$1300 703-979-3772

ARL N/Walk to Metro—2BR 1BA. pvt entr. \$1350+ utls. 703-981-7445

ARL/PENT CITY—SPRING SPECIAL. Effcy. \$875; 1BR \$1,050 to \$1,075/allutl incl. Lg. spac. rms., wlk Metro & Pent. City. 703-979-8661

ARL/VA SQ **\$2800** **LUXURY**
1 yr old luxury TH in Lincoln Court. 1950sf, 3BR, 2.5 BA, 1-car gar, gas fpl, balc, 2 blks to Metro.
ARL PROP MGMT **703 237-3333**

ARLINGTON/Rosslyn/River Place
UNFURNISHED \$950 **FURNISHED \$1000**
studio w/river view, pool/ gym/walk to metro/ Georgetown utli incl. 703-981-5069

ASHBURN/BROADLANDS **\$1795**
Beaut & spacious TH, 3 lvl, 3BR/2½BA, fin walk/o lower lvl, gas fp & garage, many extras. Pls call 571-259-3698 703-435-1628

AU/FRIENDSHIP—Sunny 2BR + study, 1 ba, deck, garage, cac, w/d, Metro, shops. \$2400/mo. 323 665-4960

BETH/6306 Friendship Ct—Pvt & quiet. 3BR/2.5BA, lge gourmet kitchen, 2 car garage, lots of room. \$3000+dep. 703-867-2893

BETH N./Grosvenor **\$1150**
RENOVATED 1 BDRM/1 BATH
Hi Rise, walk to Metro, Incl. Utilities (703)786-4544

BETHSDA **10107 Langhorne** **\$2300**
3BR 2-2BA TH w/1 car gar. Across from Mont Mall. 1 min to 270/495. Call **CASAS** 301-717-9114

BETHSDA/NIH
SFH 3BR, 2BA, yd, quiet nghd, convto Metro. Avl 4/1. \$2250. 240-506-7777 or 240-506-2759

BLADENSBURG—Lg sunny 1BR, A/C, lg closets, \$665 incl utls & prkg. **202-362-5919** **301-460-7707**

BOWIE—Contemp 3BR, new kit, bit-ins, upstairs fam, w/d, pvt courtyd, gar. convert to 4th BR w/sep. entr. & full BA. No bsmt. Sub-let or business. \$2500. Avl.4/15.301-809-0100

Burke **\$2100**
Free Rent for March
5bdr, 3ba, SFH, deck, walk to metro exp bus, LBHS, pool 703-451-3811

CAP HILL—1-1BR Engl. bsmt. w/working fpl, new crpt, paint, cabinetry, 3 min wlk to Union Sta. & Capitol, wlk-out front porch, \$1500/mo + utls. Avail. 4/1. Call 202-744-0122 for open house date.

CAP HILL/215 Constitution N.E.—Nr Metro, US Cap, Apts w/everything, CATV, ph. Fr. \$1400. 202-547-7767

BETH/PKSIDE—4/1. Lg 1BR, metro, \$1100 util incl. Msg 301-530-6753

BOWIE—2MBR/3.5BA, 3 LVL TH. \$1295. 703-899-6540for details

CAP HILL—2BR, 2BA, FP w/d, CAC. Modern cond. Sep entr, \$1700+ utils. 721 E St, NE, #2. Call Leslie 202-444-6965.

CAP HILL-NE—Lge 1BR, \$790, sunny, hdwd flrs, lge closets, incl heat/hot water, **202-362-5919**
301-460-7707.

CAP HILL-TEMPORARY
TH or apts to share
Wash. Intern Student Housing,
internsdc.com, 202-547-7767

CATH AVE—Beautiful 1BR, New Bath, Hdwd flrs. \$1250. 202-288-9013

CATHEDRAL/SUTTON PLACE—2BR w/patio, pool. \$2500. Call 202-363-3679

CENTREV—Immac 3BR 3½BA TH, DR w/skylt, deck, rr w/FP, w/o patio w/shed, w/d, \$1650, 703-360-1725

CENTREV—TH. By 66/28. 4BR, 4BA, 3 fl, w/d, deck, gar, lots prkg, \$900mo+utli+dep **703 644-2400**

CH CH/ELIZABETH—2BR 2BA, full kitch, pkg, utls incl. Indr pool, gym. Near Metro, shops, rests. \$2200/mo. CALL 202-257-7938

CHEVY CHASE—Willoughby. Spacious, bright 1BR apt w/great view. Freshly painted. Wlk to Friendship Heights Metro & shops. Luxury bldg w/roof pool, gym, sauna. Util incl. No pets. \$1500. Call 301-320-3587 evenings.

CLEVELAND PARK **METRO AT YOUR DOOR**
Large 1BR, sunny, new kit/appls, wood flrs. Incls. heat/HW. \$1140. **202-362-5919** **301-460-7707.**

COLLEGE PARK—Studio. Call 202-903-6419

COLLEGE PK—Metro 1.5 mi. 5 BR, 3 BA SFH. BRAND NEW kit, baths, flrs. Deck. \$2195. Call Ken, 240-432-4707

COLLEGE PK—Westchester lge studio Open 3/21 1-4. 202-903-6419

COLUMBIA HGTS—Beaut. renov. rowhouse, 4BR, 2 ba, all new appls. Sec. 8 ok. \$2600. Contact Steve Williams at 202 291-9400.

COLUMBIA HGTS/ADAMS MORG—FULLY RENOV ENG BSMT, 1BR apt, all new BA, kit, hdwd, wd, cac/hot dw, ceramic tile & crpt. N/S/pets. Avl. 4/1. \$1,350/mo+utl

COLUMBIA HTS—1-1BR apt, hdwd flr, 2 blks Metro, 3 blks Adams Morgan, \$850/mo. incl ht. 703-919-0705

CONN AVE/3701 Spacious 1BR—w/den, prkw, indr prkg, secure bldg w/fitness rm, 1 blk Metro & shops. \$1700/incl. utls. 202-494-0776

CONN AVE—LG APTS. Some w/den or porch, \$875 to \$1550. AUGUST FREE. **Douglas Mgmt., 202-362-7202.**

DUP CIR—Great loc. 2 blks metro. Maid svc. 24hr desk. Laundry room. Dailys from \$44 & weekly from \$165/week. Brickseller Inn. 1523 22nd St, NW 202-293-1885

DUP/STUDIO/METRO—NR METRO, LG. STUDIO. CALL 202-903-6419

DUPONT CIRCLE—Charming studio, 24hr lobby, cable, \$1400 utls incl, 202-462-8103

FAIRFAX—2BR, 1BA condo, avl Apr 1, new appls, nr 123/Metro/Ffx Cir. \$1200. 571-233-6216

FAIRFAX CITY/10912 Marilita Ct
3BR/1BA, new kitchen/carp, fresh paint, extra lge fncd yard, close shop/g/schools, no pets, \$1350+sec dep. 703-867-2893

FAIRFAX—TH 1 mi. to Vienna Metro. 3BR/3.5BA. \$1625. 703-217-6082

FAIRFAX TH—CLEAN! Near Metro, 3 lvl, 3BR, 2.5 ba, fin. bsmt, no smokg/no pet. \$1450 **703-862-3505**

FALLS CH—1 BR, \$875 & 2 BR, \$975 + gas & elec. Bus at door. Near shops. Carlyn Hill Apts 703-578-3329

FALLS CH/Baileys X Rds—4BR, 3.5BA 3 lvl, lge brk TH, prkg, Excel neigh. No pets. \$1775. 703-931-0214

FALLS CH — Lux garden style condo, 2BR, 2FBA, backs to quiet nghbrhd. W/D, balc, gar pkg, pvt pool, wlk to shpg/bus/Metro. Avail. 4/1. \$1495 inc utls. 301-370-9520

FALLS CH — Lux TH 2 BR, 2½ BA. Walk to Metro & shpgg. Close to 66 & Tysons. Avl 4/1. 703-534-1528

FALLS CHURCH—Just listed. 3 BR, 1 BA. Fam rm addition. Frpl, new Berber carpet. No pets. \$1300/mo + utls. Avail immed.

Marion Cloud **703-314-7033**

RE/MAX Allegiance
G'TOWN/GLOVER PK—Eng bsmt, 1BR, \$925+utlts, great location, 703-409-3493

G'TWN/1664-A Avon Pl—Newly renov., 2BR/1BA, HW flrs, granite kit, grdn. \$2400. 202-338-4011 or 202-255-0214

GAITH—2BR, \$925; 1BR \$850. Hdwd flrs. newly renov. Close to MARC & Metro. 301-977-8777

GAITHERSBURG—3 BR, 2½ BA TH. \$1600/mo. Section 8 welcome. 301-933-9515

GAITHERSBURG-GREAT LOCATION
3BR/2½BA 3lvl TH, new carpet, new appliances, Newly redecorated, Nr shops/Metro, \$1475, 301-340-1625

GEO'TWN/3237 N St—Small 1BR w/ patio, w/w, CAC, great loc. \$1280. Call 301-654-2822

GLOVER PK **\$985+utlils**
1BR, 1BA, hdwd flrs, nr bus, pkg avl. Avail 4/1. 2215 40th St. NW, #4. 202-997-1431 or 202-333-4510

KALORAMA 1900 BILTMORE ST.
Nice studio, \$875. 202-234-4885

KALORAMA—HUGE 3BR 2½BA, w/garage, porch & patio. \$3300. **2434 20th St NW.** 202-671-4169

KALORAMA- METRO—Grand, big 3BR, 2BA, new eat in kit, fpl, cac, w/d, patio. \$2850 301-365-7886.

LAUREL—It & airy TH, 2 lvs above 1 car gar, 2 spac Mtr suites ave w/pvt BA, uppr lv loft, din area, lav area, sep laun & strg. Gt loc nr Patuxent Greens golf crse, \$1600/mo. 202 365-4885

MANASSAS—IMMACULATE 3BR, 2BA+2HBA, 1 car gar, \$1600/mo. For details call, Michael Shannon, 703-628-4019 or see www.2hdb.com/mshannonsells

LOGAN CIRCLE AREA—Be the first to live in this brand new 1BR w/hdwd flrs, upscale kit, w/d. 1225 13th St. N.W. \$1800/mo. Call Davis at 703-823-3452
LORTON—Spectac. wtr view, 2 lvl, fpl, hdwd flrs, lge 1 BR/2 BA. \$975+utlits. RER, 703-550-2317

MANASSAS/TOWNES OF ASHLEIGH—Lux TH, gar., 3 BR, 2 BA + 2 HBA, fpl, conv. to l66 & shop'g. Avail 4/1/04. Call 410-757-7413. \$1350.

MCLEAN/Gates Of Mclean — 2BR, 2BA condo w/hdwd flrs, w/ stunning views & gar prkg., sec. access to bldg. \$1600+dep. 703-867-2893

NE/1842 Providence St—Remod. 1br cac \$685/ mo+utl. 301-602-9375

N.E. — 2BRs & 3 BRs. Also avail 1 BR & 2 BR in NW & SE. Section 8 welcome. 301-652-2002

NW/Dntn—Convention Center, Bright, spac new renov 1BR, \$995; Effcy. \$775. 202-289-4909.

NW/PETWORTH/1BR/NEAR METRO—Bus line/ shpng ctr. \$700/mo. 202-291-1711

NW—studio, hi end fixtures, new appls. \$1800 + utls. Open Sun 2-4. **1822 15th St #302.** 301-602-7004

OAKTON—Short term, 4BR 2½BA SFH, \$2,000, 703-281-3830

OFFICE & WAREHOUSE 1818 N.Y. AVE.—Nr Convention Center, over 6000 SF for short or long term lease. Fully furn. 1st level loading & free pvt prkg incl. Call Si Faige at 202-345-0801.

OXON HILL—2 BR, 2 BA, frpl, CAC, porch, ½ mi to highway, close to Metro, 10 mins to DC. \$1300/mo. Avail immed. 301-455-7445

RESTON—1BR, 1BA, balcony, quiet & nice. 5 mins from Reston Twn Ctr. \$993/mo 1 mo rent free upon approval of credit ckl 571-283-3064

RESTON—Lakefrmt condo, beaut furn, all utlsl! \$2500/mo. Call 703-716-4296

RESTON/ON LAKE THOREAU • \$1250 incl utlils. Lg 1BR, frpl, LR & BR glass doors to lake, W/D. 202-387-9889

ROCKV/\$1495—4BR, 2BA, country kit., carport. Big yd. 301-570-0261.

ROCKVILLE/DERWOOD **\$1999**
16833 Malabar Big 3BR spl't w/country kitch & hdwd fr. Nr Shady Grove Metro. Fin bsmt. 2 **CAR GARAGE** Call **CASAS** 301-717-9114

ROCKVILLE, MD—Luxurious 2/2 available now. 1102 sq ft. Walk to Rockville Metro. Many amenities. First two months free. No security dep. Brand New. Many amenities. 10' ceilings with triple crown molding. Soaking tubs. \$1770. 866-255-4809

ROCKVILLE, MD—Spectacular 1/1 w/loft. 907 sq ft. Gr8 location. Walk to Rockville Metro. Brand New apt home. 20' ceilings throughout and many windows with views of skyline or swimming pool. No sec dep. Available now or April 1.
First two months free! **1609. 866-255-4809.**

ROCKVILLE/NIH—Lrg effcy, furn, lux hi-rise, pvt prkg, steps Metro. \$1185. 3 mos min. 301 299-2610

SE—1 & 2BR apts. \$600 & up + elec. No pets. 202-265-4814/889-4083. **Fred A. Smith Co.**



SE/3238 13th St, #102, 2BR **\$575**
SE/1303, unit 201, 3BR **\$1,375**
SE/3719 2nd St, #201,2BR **\$750**
SE/Jasper St, 3BR **\$950**
SE/215 Newcomb, 2BR **\$575**
NW/Girard St., 1BR **\$650**
NW/Girard St. Effcy **\$500**
NW/Longfellow St., 1BR **\$650**
NW/Longfellow St., 2BR **\$950**
NW/801 P St., Seniors only. 1BR **\$285**

Call for further info 202-388-3900
www.oakesmanagement.com

S.E./Hillcrest—1BR apt, ac, w/d, \$700 incl utlils & catv. 202-5

Classifieds

HOUSES FOR SALE

16th St. Hts \$594K Beaut. Craftmans Home—Wraparound porch, incredible frpl., 3 BR + study, 2.5 BA, hrdwd. flrs, 1337 Montague St. NW. 202-288-3832- www.salebyownerrealty.com listing #4561

ALEX/Island Creek \$410K—FSBO. Immac garage TH, 3BR, 3½BA, hdwd flrs, sep shwr & tub in MBR w/wlk-in clst, 2 fpl, deck, hi cells, bay wndws, brick front. Must see inside. Kola, 703-929-0268.

ALEXANDRIA NEAR ALL BASES—BRAND-NEW SFH & TOWNHOUSES
3 & 4BRs, 2½BAs, 3 lvs, 1 & 2 car gar. Avail now, 4/1, 5/1, 6/1, 9/1, 10/1. Owner finan. avail. Rent to own alos. Credit issues, bankruptcy no problems, many options. **703-660-6752 Let's Make A Deal**
ALEXANDRIA—Newly remodeled TH, rent 2 own/owner financing w/5% down. 3BR, 2½BA, Many Upgrades. Extras \$400s. 703-926-1882.

ARL VILLAGE—Brick Colonial Townhome, 2BR, 1BA. Close to Pentagon/shops/Army Navy Country Club. \$285,000. Call 503-806-1525

ARLINGTON \$1,120,000
CLARENDON PARK JEWEL
FSBO, Principals only. **THE ONLY "WINDSOR UNIT ON THE PARK"**—Large elegant Townhome is a one-of-a-kind. 3BR, 4.5 BA 2-car gar. Must see. Just steps to shops, restaurants, Metro.
2819 North 11th St. 703-387-0234

BALTIMORE FEDERAL HILL
2BR, 2BA TH, appt. 410-837-3365
BOWIE—FSBO, 3 story solid brick col on 2½ac, 5BR/3½BA, lg open kitchen, inground heated pool, cmpltly fenced, upper \$500's. Shown by appt only. 301-464-8063/928-8550/980-3033

BOWIE GREAT PRICE
Beaut home, 3 lrg BR, 3BA, bsmtnt, nice kit, grt area. Re/Max 100 **my1sthouse.com**
1-800-603-1480 ID#400

BOWIE
Lovely TH, great area, 3BR, pvt yd, frpl, closing help RE/MAX Colonial, 1-877-877-2730 Ext 3001.

BURKE \$645,000
6909 SPANKER DRIVE

4 BR, 4.5 BA 3LV SFH, 2 car gar. Brokers Personal Home! New roof, siding, carpet and heater. Newly fin'd bsmt. DIR: 95 to FFX Co Pkwy, R Lee Chapel, R Onion Patch, L to Spanker to 6909.
703-451-8614 or 703-371-6956

CONN AVE/CHEVY CHASE/DC—1 or 2 ofcs avail in 2 of suite ideal for psychotherapists, counseling. Great location. 301-252-5641.

CULPEPER CO—11 ac., mostly open, fncd, horse barn & views. \$120,000. Browning R.E., 540-825-0731

DISTRICT HGTS NEGO.
GORGEOUS TH 4BR, 3BA, RR. Call for more info, 240-273-2329

FAIRFAX CNTY NO MONEY DOWN!
Free list of properties available with 0 down payment. Free recorded msg 1-877-397-7988 ID# 2018.

FAIRFAX CO What's your Home Worth?
www.nowahousevalues.com. Free real estate insider info www.nowarealestate.info.

FAIRFAX Walk to Vienna Metro!
Beautiful TH, quiet ST, Oakton H.S. \$355K. 0 down payment. Free recorded msg 1-877-605-9408 ID# 2033.

FALLS CH \$550,000
BRAND NEW LISTING/GORGEOUS ½ACRE LOT/SPACIOUS 3BR, 2½BA HOME, hdwd flrs, fpl, carprt, huge fin. bsmt., lots of extra storage. Quiet cul-de-sac, sought after nghbrhd. Call for appt.
Marion Cloud 703-314-7033RE/MAX Allegiance

FALLS CHURCH CITY—Fixer Upper, 4BR, 10,000sf lot, \$4500s. BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME. 703-926-1882

GLOVER PK/UPPER GEORGETOWN—Prime retail space. Storefront in 2200 blk. Wisconsin Ave. 202-270-9293

GREENBELT \$249,900
Absolutely amazing home w/4BR, 3.5BA, skylights, vaulted ceilings, huge closets, deck, fncd yrd, huge kit, fpl & more. Buy w/\$3k down!
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You will love this amazing home w/4BR, 3BA in a perfect loc w/great schools. Own this home w/\$2K! Re/Max 100 **my1sthouse.com**
1-800-603-1480 ID#401

NE/Cap Hill End Unit Row \$379,900
JUST REDUCED \$10K!
ONLY \$10K NEEDED TO PURCHASE
Seller pays all **OTHER CLOSING COST** ("NO STRINGS") 3BR, 2½BA, new GE profile appls, updated kit w/new ceramic tile flr, CAC, new crpt & hdwd flrs, pvt prkg in rear, gated alley access, **qualifying income of at least \$110K/yr.** 301-751-4005.

POTOMAC BEACH COMMUNITY
With marina, river & clubhse. N. Neck, VA. Lots starting at \$24,900. Call 804-493-9992 or 540-903-1553

SANDY SPRINGS—FSBO. Great location. 3BR, 1½BA SFH, wlk up attic, new HVAC, cozy wood fpl, ½ac w/rear fncd yd, hdwd flrs, 1 car gar. Avail 1st week of April. \$325K. Principals only. 301-829-5980

LANHAM—\$185K, attractive detached rambler, 3BR/1½BA. Call David, L & F, 301-434-9490 ext 336

LANHAM—3 BR, 1½ BA, fin bsmt. No credit check. 301-306-9089

MITCHELLVILLE—6BR, 3½BA, deck, backs to Golf Course in Heart of Lake Arbor, \$360K. 301-910-2673. Best Props Bode 301-910-2673

N.E. INVESTORS SPECIAL TRINIDAD AREA 1602 Levis St.—Sold: as is, 3BR \$125,000. 202-246-9099

OAKTON Walk to Vienna Metro!
Gorgeous brick TH. \$339,900. 0 down payment. Free recorded msg 1-877-605-9408 ID# 2035

PURCHASE/REFINANCE, Get Cash Out—Credit problems? We can help. 301-248-1307.
www.firstmetroloans.com

SHEPHERDSTOWN—For natural surroundings, Potomac River access & high quality construction, take a look at this custom built 3 fin lvl log home. Want to telecommute? Cut down travel time with fully equipped office. 8.5 ac, property with mature woods & 2 landscaped ac. \$389,000.
www.homesdatabase.com/yvonnehthomson. **RE/MAX Achievers, 888-692-0128. Agt.**

SHEPHERDSTOWN—Historic brk farmhouse on 20 secluded ac. nr. Shepherdstown & Marc. 3000 sq ft 4-BR 2½-BA \$624,000. Picture & details www.forsalebyowner.com
Listing ID 20061322
Call owner direct 304-876-3883

SPGFLD Open Sun 1-4 \$359,900
REMOD. TH—Granite, SS appls., hdwd, new crpt, paint, 3br 2.55ba. Dir: Frm Bltvy, Braddock Rd East, R-Backlick, R-Leestone to 7012. NVH 703-444-4659.

SPRINGFIELD/DAVENTRY \$589,900
BACKING TO TREES

Spectacular 4BR, 3FBA, 2 car gar SFH in fabulous community. Large sunrm w/skylights, new carpet throughout, some hdwd flrs, FR w/ fpl, fin llv, luxurious MBR & BA, lge deck off sunrm, most rooms freshly painted. Shows beautifully! Open 1-4. DIR: I-95S, W Old Keene Mill Rd, L Hunter Village Dr, R Belleflower Dr to the spectacular home at 7907.
Mary Quinlan, 703-288-3139 RE/MAX 100

SPRINGFLD \$549,900 703-346-4611 Jobin Realty
SFH, 5BR, 2BA upper lvl; 2BR, 1BA, lwr lvl, hdwd & ceramic flrs, deck, frpl, w/o bsmt, 2-car gar, nice lot, 8492 Middleun Dr. Questions call Rodolfo

SUMERDUCK—New home. 4BR on 2.8 beautiful acres. Conv. location. Avail April '04. \$389,000 540-439-8411 or 540-219-5445

UPPER MARLBORO—4 BR, 2½ BA, deck, fin bsmt. No credit check. 301-306-9089

VIENNA Minutes to Metro!
Beautiful 3 lvi TH. \$304,900. 0 down payment. Free recorded msg 1-877-605-9408 ID# 2037

VIENNA/Tyson's Corner \$538,000
Magnificent like new Tysons Corner/Westpark end unit TH w/2-car gar, 3BR, 2½BA, hdwd flrs main flr, 4 fin lvs. Amazing location, great privacy.
Palisade Realty 703-406-9718

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WE BUY HOUSES—Any Area Any Type. We will make your payments, its not too late. Please call 240-223-7909

WINCHESTER, VA \$75,000
BEAUTIFUL, WOODED W/STREAM 6 AC LOTS
Next to horse farm. 540-303-0569

WOODBIDGE/Cardinal Crest—Lovely 2400 SF colo. 4BR, 2½BA, hdwd entry, formal LR & DR w/bay window & cath cells, El kit, famrm w/marble/gas frpl, vault MSBR w/walk in clst, fin w/o bsmt, 2-car gar, deck backs to trees, \$399,000. 703-583-0191

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WHEELS

ACURA—'01 3.2 S, 38Kmi, \$16,950. WBM 703-243-4466 /593-7000

ACURA '00 3.2 TL—Excel cond, loaded, 64K mi, 4dr, Md insp, Maintenance records avail.\$15,499/OBO. 410-960-7232

ACURA—'99 RL 3.5, 49Kmi, \$16,950. WBM 703-243-4466 /593-7000

BMW '00 528, blue/tan lthr, mint cond. Heated seats, backup sensor, no snrf, 45K mi, 1 OWNER. fabulous deal! \$21,900/firm. 202-585-0783

BMW—'97 740i, 78Kmi, loaded, \$13,850. WBM 703-243-4466 /593-7000

BMW—'96 328is, \$11,000. 55Kmi. Snrf, lthr seats, loaded, must see. 703-528-2021; 443-417-6449

BUICK—'90 REATTA, future classic, 150K, runs grt, gd cond.\$2900. Call 301-894-7774

CHEVY—'01 TRAILBLAZER, 70KMI, excel cond, \$12,500/obo. Call 240-286-8026

DODGE '95 Viper RT 10—Red/grey leath, 8300 mi, \$38,500. 703-753-9225; 703-887-9414.

FORD '00 Explorer Ltd—44K mi, orig owner, excl cond, wrnty, \$16,795. www.homepage.mac.com/youngpeggy for details 703-684-6763

FORD '97 Explorer XLT Grn. 81K. V8. lthr. tow pkg. Good cond. \$7000/obo. 703-913-0149; 703-220-2820

FORD '96 F150 XLT Super Cab—Silver w/matching cap, line-X bedliner, tow pkg, 2nd owner, exc cond, all svc recs, \$8750, 703-577-3295

FORD—'94 Taurus SHO, good cond., lthr, full pwr, new parts, snrf, \$1500/OBO. 202-276-4354

HD '94 Fat Boy—custom paint, lots of chrome, Corbin seats, gar kept. \$14,000. Call 571-238-4104

FORD—'98 MUSTANG COBRA conv, triple blk, lthr, 5sp, mach ster., polished R rims w/new tires, flow-master exhst, cold air induct., billet int. knob pkg, low mi., very nice, \$15,800/obo. 703-969-9086

HD '90 Electra Glide Classic—Two tone Cranberry, Sampson turn outs & other extra chrome. Nice bike, 32K. \$10,900. 202-369-8855

HONDA—'04 CRV, 2WD LX, external blue pearl, 900+mi, \$20K. Serious inqs./hlth forces sale. 703-361-9071

HONDA '90 GB 500—Perfect beginner bike, light, low, responsive needs nothing, \$3995. 804-514-7334

HYUNDAI—'96 ELANTRA GLS, 61K mi, auto, p/s, ac, p/w, p/m, radio/cass, dual airbags, brand new tires (Good Year), intr. chstal alarm, new battery/altrntr, almost new int, child safety locks, orig jack & donut tire in tact. Will sell for top \$.
Call orig owner at 301-362-1443

INFINITI '93 G20—Fully loaded, 98Kmi, runs excel, \$3650, 703-922-7548 or 240-606-3534

ISUZU '96 RODEO—All pwr, 4WD, extra cln, maint'd recds, 1 ownr, 110K mi. \$4800. 301-649-1534

JAGUAR '98 XJ8. Outstanding shape. all recs. fully loaded. White/Tan int. Must sell \$12,900/obo. 703-609-7268

JEEP '49 Willys CJ2A—New top, seats, paint, stock, 6V, tow bar, VG cond, \$3800. 703-360-5236

JEEP '00 Gr. Cherokee Laredo — 4WD, auto, V8, 43K mi, incl immac lthr/wood int, snrf, 10-CD chngr, Loaded \$17,500. Call 703-819-7585

JEEP—'00 GR CHEROKEE, 39KMI, silvr, AT, all pwr, snrf, cd plyr, am/fm, lthr seats, \$17K/obo. 301-526-2980

LEXUS '01 LX470—Ext 7yr/100K mi wrty, 44K, gray/gray lthr, mint cond, loaded \$39,900/obo 703-968-8121

LEXUS—'99 ES300 COACH EDIT, excel cond, coach int, all pwr, htd seats, clim. cont., 65Kmi, \$15,900/obo. 540-657-9355

LEXUS '92 SC400 COUPE

Fully loaded, V8, \$7000/obo.
Call Mike, 703-856-1465

MALLARD '92—28", Just back from Disney going back to a trailer. Partial trade considered. white 454, loaded & comfy w/TV/stove/refrig, 29½K, \$18,900/obo 540-341-7424

MERCEDES '03 C320—7K mi., fully load, garaged, exc cond, 3 yr. extnd wrnty. \$34,850. 703-400-3032

MERCEDES '98 C43—1 owner, Ltd production model, less than 500 produced, excel cond, 80Kmi, all svc & maint scheds. done, Mobil One, K & N. A modern era muscle car, destined to become collectible. \$23,500. 540-364-3647

MERCEDES—'98 C230, cd, 78Kmi, \$9850. WBM 703-243-4466 /593-7000

MERCEDES—'95 SL500, blk, 17" MB whls (5 spoke), 67K, \$630mo/o dwn/lease. 301-798-0240.

MERCEDES—'87 190 16V, 5sp, blk, 77Kmi, \$10,500/obo. Call 703-969-3360

MERCURY—'98 MOUNTAINEER, 76k, excl cond, fully loaded, cd chngr, maroon, Sale/\$9200. 703-803-8264

MERCURY—'98 VILLAGER, 83Kmi, 2 tone/drk grn/slvr, loaded, \$5900. Call 703-451-5177

PLY '88—Reliant white/blue int, am/fm/ster, only 57K orig, fully ld'd, \$700. MUST GO. 202-270-6606

PLY '69 Road Runner—auto, 440, bucket seats, great shape, \$14,000 or serious offers. 703-856-6270

TOYOTA '00 Sienna—52K mi., 1 owner, excellent condition. \$15,850. 703-623-1987

TOYOTA '00 Celica GTS—auto, ac, leath, snrf, ex cond, 89Kmi, \$12,500. 301-831-9590

TOYOTA—'99 Corolla LE, great cond, 75K mi, auto, fully loaded, beige. PLS call 202-974-3148 or 202-463-6127 or 703-803-4011. \$6500

TOYOTA '99 TACOMA PU SR5—5spd, a/c, 4x4 V6 extra cab, am/fm/cass, 72K, exc cond. \$10,600 703-760-0487

TOYOTA '96 Camry LE—auto, am/fm 4dr, 85Kmi, ac excellent condition. \$5800/OBO. 703-451-9323

VOLVO—'04 XC90 Slvr met w/blk lthr int, loaded, list \$44K/sell \$40K. 410-923-3732

VOLVO—'00 V70 XC, AWD, 61K, auto, silver/gray lthr, loaded, excel cond. \$18,500. Call 202-244-3123

VW—'00 JETTA, mint cond, 4 cyl, new brks, pwr, burgundy, \$8000/obo. 301-526-2980

WINNEBAGO—'86 CHIEFTAN, Class A motor home, 68K mi., exc. cond., \$12,000/OBO. 703-244-6105

YAMAHA—'02 YZF R1, 1000cc, silver, mig high mount pipe, \$7000/firm. 240-217-4896

BOATS

BAYLINER '01 212 LX—CC, excel cond, 5.0 merc cruiser, warr till 6-06, prof maint'd, low hrs, trlr incld. \$17,500. 301-812-1604

HOLIDAY '03—cruise/live aboard, slps 6, ac, kit w/mcrrw/stove/frig, BA/shower. \$79,900. 410-812-2609

MAKCO—'90 Center Console 247, Twin 200 Evinrude, new fact power heads, \$19,500. 301-748-5488

SEARAY 30 EXPRESS—Completely rebuilt 1975, Pipewelder's tower w/steering station Lee outriggers, Tw Crusader, FWC 350s w/straight drives, new radar, radio, chart plotter, GPS & color Fish Finder, heat & air, \$24,900 firm. Call Chris 410-867-4328.

WELLCRAFT 233 ECLIPSE

'90, excel cond, blue/white, w/putty, trailer excluded, \$10,500 703-447-5580.

WHALER—'85 13'6" \$4500/OBO. 301-779-5980 /301-437-1195

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For more info visit <http://mpa.gmu.edu>

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People

DIVAS
'Don't Expect Information, I'm Just Aretha's Publicist'

ARETHA FRANKLIN has been hospitalized for an undisclosed ailment and is in stable condition, her publicist said Monday. The Queen of Soul, who lives in Detroit, was hospitalized Saturday, according to Gwendolyn Quinn, her New York

City-based publicist. Quinn declined to say where the singer had been hospitalized. The publicist said she had no further information about Franklin's illness or how long she would be hospitalized. The legendary singer turns 62 on Thursday. (AP)

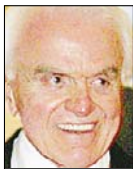


Edwards is leaving "Morning Edition"

VOICES
Or as Trump Would Say ...
National Public Radio has bounced **BOB EDWARDS**, host of "Morning Edition" since its inception in 1979, out of his job. The radio network announced Tuesday that Edwards, 56, will become senior correspondent of NPR News at the end of April. Edwards said he was given no specific reasons for his ouster. "It's the old 'move the program in a new direction.' There was no Janet Jackson incident," he said. "It's part of a natural evolution," said an NPR spokeswoman. (AP)

FIXTURES
Rated 'R' for Retirement
JACK VALENTI, who oversaw the creation of Hollywood's movie-ratings system in the 1960s, said Tuesday he will step down as head of the Motion Picture Association of America. Valenti, 82, has hinted at retirement over the past two years. He made it official at ShoWest, an

annual convention of theater owners. May will mark Valenti's 38th anniversary in the job. Valenti, who received a standing ovation from a crowd of about 1,200 theater owners, said he hopes to give up the job in two to three months. (AP)



MIKE DERER/AP

LITIGATION
Finders Weepers
Michael Jackson said a New Jersey man has no right to costumes, letters and other items, according to a lawsuit filed Monday in Los Angeles. **HENRY V. VACCARO SR.** said he was awarded the Jackson family possessions following nine years of legal wrangling stemming from a failed business venture that wound up in bankruptcy court. Jackson wants them back, but Vaccaro said they've been sold. (AP)

MEMORIES
Analyze This — No, Don't
"Jersey Girl" director **KEVIN SMITH** said he once got an offer to direct Michael Jackson in a movie about a man who turns into a car that gets ridden around by a boy. Smith told Playboy magazine that Jackson wanted to play the car/man role. The proposed title of the film, and Smith said this is no lie, was "Hot Rod." Smith called it the "weirdest" script he was ever asked to direct. Jackson is being accused of child molestation in Santa Barbara County, Calif. He maintains his innocence. (AP)



NON-SCANDALS
Sounds Enthralling
ELVIS COSTELLO has agreed to a two-book deal with Simon & Schuster, but don't expect juicy music industry gossip. The publisher said Tuesday Costello had "resisted the rewards for writing a traditionally scurrilous and scandalous biographical memoir." The first book, scheduled for 2005, will be a "series of intimate narrative chapters taking their cue from the styles, themes and characters found in a number of Costello's lyrics." The second book will be a "work of comic philosophy." (AP)



5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

Today

Partly sunny and seasonable
58°

Tonight

Mostly cloudy with a shower
42°

Thursday

Mostly cloudy; a shower or two
64° / 48°

Friday

Partly sunny and warmer
68° / 50°

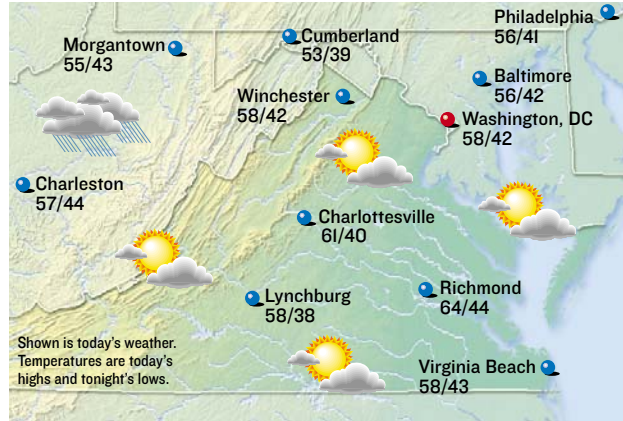
Saturday

A shower early, then partly sunny
68° / 50°

Sunday

Mostly sunny and warm
70° / 48°

Regional Weather



Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Tues.
Temperature
High 50°
Low 26°
Normal high 58°
Normal low 39°
Average humidity 34%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 1.88"
Normal month to date 2.72"
Year to date 5.51"
Last year to date 12.25"
Normal year to date 8.67"

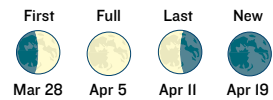
For up-to-the-minute weather, see:
[washingtonpost.com/weather](http://www.washingtonpost.com/weather)

Regional Forecast

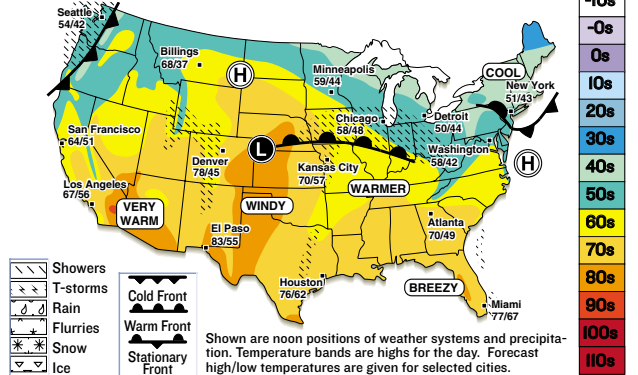
D.C. Metro: Today, partly sunny, seasonable. High 58. Wind southwest 8-16 mph. Tonight, becoming cloudy, perhaps a shower. Low 42.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today 6:05 a.m.
Sunset tonight 6:24 p.m.
Moonrise today 7:55 a.m.
Moonset today 10:24 p.m.



National Weather for Wednesday, March 24



National Cities

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thur. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	70/49/s	71/51/pc
Boston	46/36/pc	53/40/sh
Chicago	58/48/r	62/48/sh
Dallas	69/61/t	77/61/pc
Denver	78/45/sh	73/41/pc
Honolulu	82/72/sh	84/73/sh
Los Angeles	67/56/c	69/56/pc
Miami	77/67/sh	80/69/sh
New York City	51/43/pc	56/46/sh
Orlando	74/58/pc	80/58/pc
Seattle	54/42/r	53/41/r

World Cities

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thur. Hi/Lo/W
Amsterdam	41/31/pc	39/30/sh
Athens	61/43/pc	62/46/c
Berlin	45/30/r	38/28/sn
Buenos Aires	86/68/s	84/68/s
Calgary	49/32/pc	38/27/pc
Dublin	47/31/pc	49/34/pc
Geneva	39/26/sn	40/26/sn
Moscow	48/27/c	44/28/r
Rome	51/38/sh	55/38/pc
Sydney	77/57/s	81/63/s
Tokyo	57/46/r	60/44/c

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

Playback

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

A NOTE TO THE FAIRFAX COUNTY Board of Education: I think you misunderstood messages coming to you from parents. We wanted you to focus more on abstinence when you talk to our kids about sex *before* marriage. We didn't want you to promote abstinence *after* marriage by censoring a movie that hints that a husband might still be attracted to his wife ("Character Misses Wife, Gets Banned," March 22). Let the kids watch "1776."

—KEVIN COSTELLO
Fairfax, Va.

THE ARTICLE ON METRO closing its bathrooms for security reasons left me asking one crucial question: Were Metro bathrooms ever open to the public? ("Metro Shuts Its Bathroom Doors," March 19).

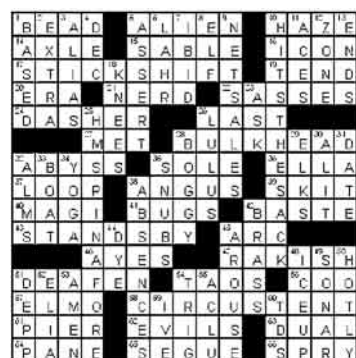
As a commuter who rides the Metro from Huntington to West Falls Church and then rides a Fairfax Connector bus to Herndon, I can think of two occasions in which I felt I was "facing an emergency," given the long commute, and both times I was denied access to the bathroom. Forget the fare hike; I am willing to pay to use a bathroom when such emergencies arise.

—ASHLEY M. BRAIDWOOD
Herndon, Va.

WRITE TO EXPRESS: Letters must include the writer's name, address and telephone number. Submissions may be edited for space. E-mail to inbox@readexpress.com or mail to Express Letters, PO Box 17370, Arlington, VA 22216.



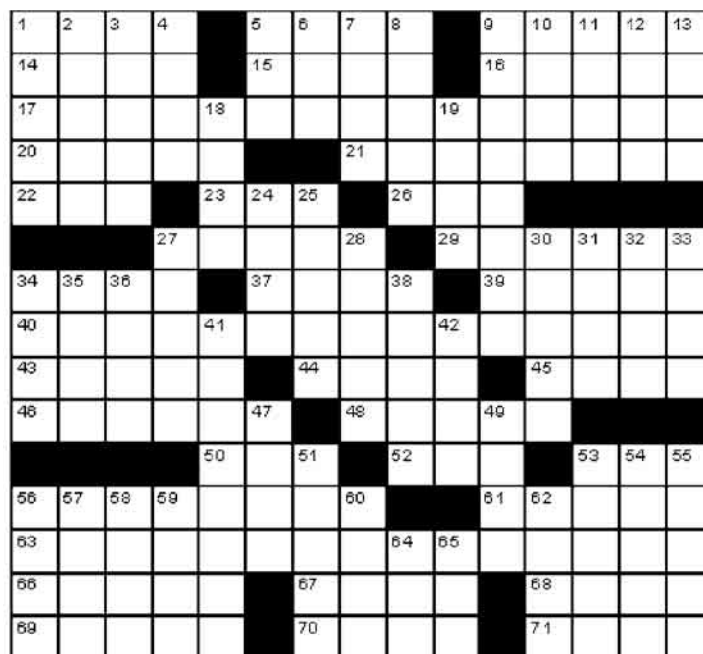
Yesterday's Solution



Crossword Puzzle: All-American Food | Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

- 1 Within view
- 5 Overshoot, say
- 9 Syrup source
- 14 "Born Free" feline
- 15 First name in folk
- 16 Steer clear of
- 17 All-American appetizer
- 20 They may have brand identification
- 21 It works like a charm
- 22 To date
- 23 Modern records
- 26 Computerphile's concern
- 27 Stands in line, say
- 29 Vladivostok villas
- 34 Hawkeye portrayer
- 37 Goes for the gold
- 39 Ethiopia's Selassie
- 40 All-American entree
- 43 Saudi's neighbor
- 44 Deduction from gross
- 45 Take seriously
- 46 University official
- 48 Thermometer wielder
- 50 Sticky stuff
- 52 Coiled choker
- 53 Piece by Matisse
- 56 "Pleasure" philosopher



- 61 First name among TV military men
- 63 All-American snack
- 66 Immigrants' island
- 67 Fabled napper
- 68 Flair
- 69 Sacked out
- 70 Playhouse location
- 71 On deck

DOWN

- 1 Info-packed
- 2 Best of the best
- 3 It's a plus
- 4 Election contest
- 5 British isle
- 6 They'll handle your return
- 7 Long narrow opening

- 8 Sub finder
- 9 Hawaiian foodfish
- 10 Madison and Park, e.g. (Abbr.)
- 11 Frost output
- 12 Kudrow of "Analyze That"
- 13 Idyllic place
- 18 Shamu, e.g.

- 19 Covered up
- 24 Operatic star
- 25 Tour of duty
- 27 "McQ" star
- 28 Roomy wheels
- 30 Hoarder's supply
- 31 Take to the trail
- 32 Sheltered, nautically
- 33 Put in the mail
- 34 Love, to Caesar
- 35 Like some excuses
- 36 Boring time
- 38 Prepare for surgery
- 41 Polyglot
- 42 Protagonist
- 47 Rip or ripped
- 49 Novel of epic proportions
- 51 Should (with "to")
- 53 Plenty of
- 54 Stop worrying
- 55 River near Nottingham
- 56 Maternal sheep
- 57 Gloomy atmosphere
- 58 Emerald, for one
- 59 Wood sliver
- 60 Top of the cast
- 62 Word with handed or minded
- 64 Bonanza find
- 65 Family tree word

The Duplex | Glenn McCoy



Horoscope | Stella Wilder

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — You can enjoy a great deal of freedom, once you take care of a major responsibility early in the day. Focus on immediate needs.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — You can keep your team alive by coming up with a big play in the final seconds. If you're at work, the boss will have something to say to you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — You can afford to be a little more playful than usual. You're tempted to do things in a more random fashion; feel free to do so — for now.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Routine projects are likely to take up much more time than usual — but you have what it takes to go the distance. Focus on the prize.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Your involvement in a major new project may be limited — but it's a good time to begin planning for something very big just around the corner.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — You must remember that you're in the running, and you can be just as competitive as the next person. Don't sell yourself short.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — A heart-to-heart talk enables you to clear the air — provided you say things in a manner that is supportive, not combative.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — A last-minute idea enables you to save the day — at least as far as you're concerned. Others may be critical of your approach.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — The sooner you tend to personal business, the sooner you can focus on business concerns that have been hanging over you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Don't pay any attention to the crowd. Focus on doing your job, and remain true to your strategy and intentions at all times.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — You're getting back in the groove when it comes to thinking in a long-term fashion. Take care you don't abandon practicality, however.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — You may have trouble talking about certain issues with a loved one — primarily because you know just what kind of response you will get.



ELIZABETH BROWN

Speak Up

A Date With Metro

IN A TOWN THAT'S consistently rated as one of the best places for singles, it's not surprising that even the District's public transportation system would be a hotbed of dating activity. The dark tunnels, close seats, soft blinking lights and, of course, long slow escalator rides make the Metro an ideal place to meet a partner.

But the subway system plays another important role in the D.C. dating scene, one that's too often overlooked: It's great for ditching a dud. On weeknights the Metro provides Cinderella's excuse and can have you home before the stroke of midnight.

Everyone knows the Metro closes at 12, but even that can be too late for a date that's really going downhill. This is where "padding" comes in. Casually mention that because the Metro is your mode of transportation, you'll have to make it an early night.

Why? Well, the station closes at midnight. Factor in the 10-minute walk to the station, three minutes to ride the escalator down, two minutes to add money to the farecard, 11 minutes to change lines, 17 minutes riding the train, another seven riding the escalator up (Woodley Park) ... actually, forget dinner, we may only have time for a drink.

If your date is a driver, the Metro offers an easy way to avoid getting in the car at the end of the night without sounding rude or prudish. I often pretend (being a devout Red Line rider) that I have no idea how to get from most places in the District to my home and couldn't possibly give good directions: "How am I supposed to know how to get there? It's all underground."

This allows you to avoid the awkward goodbye-in-the-car situation, and your ignorance of your environment may well turn off your date. He'll be glad to leave you at the escalator, where you can successfully avoid the kiss and ride.

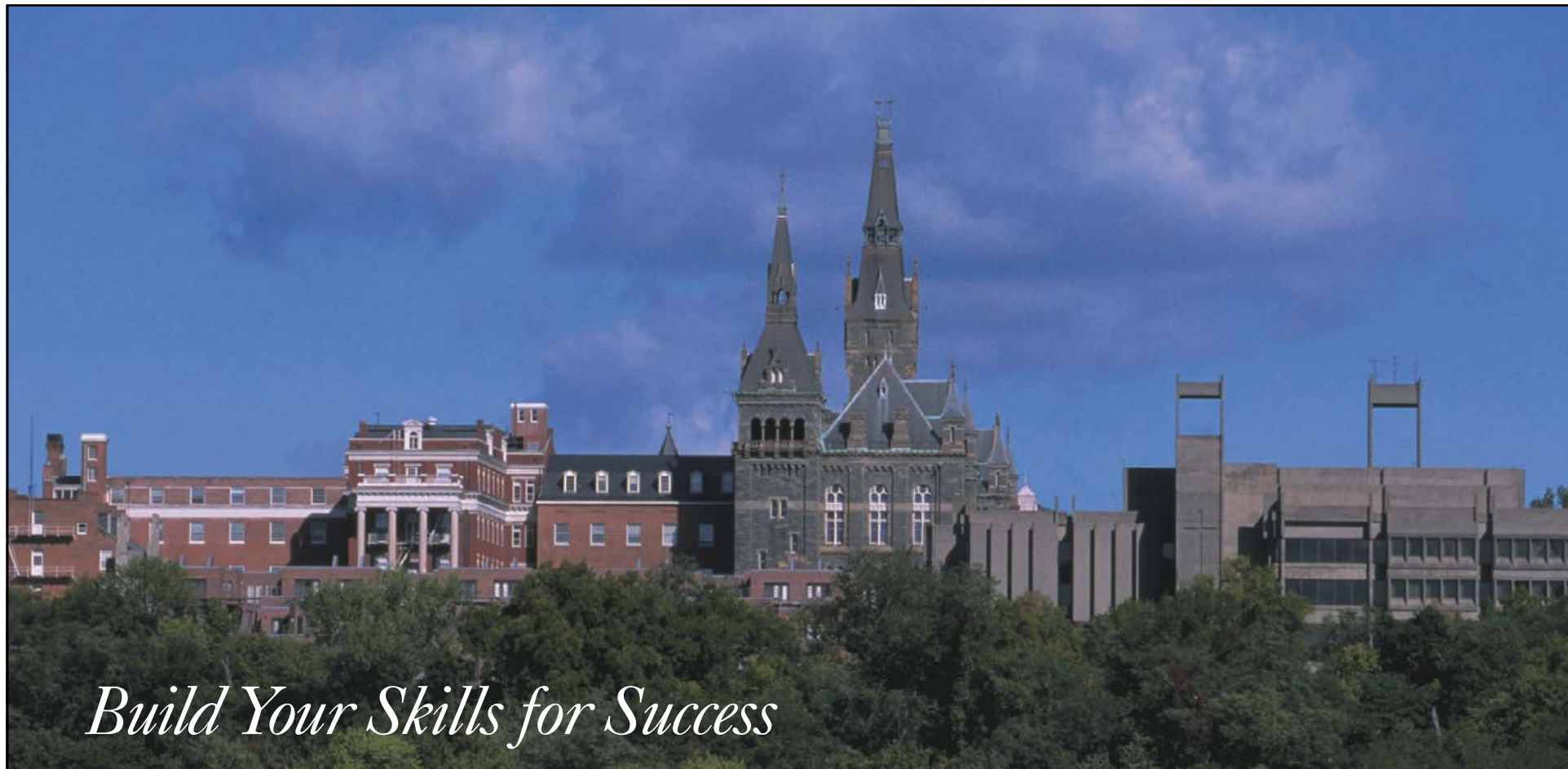
Elizabeth Brown is a graduate of George Washington University.

express

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